

321290

MX

SCRAPBOOK

VOL I

NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE

MX is only part of master arsenal plan

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON — President Carter's decision to build the MX blockbuster missile implements only part of the Pentagon's master plan for modernizing the nation's strategic arsenal, Defense Department officials said Friday.

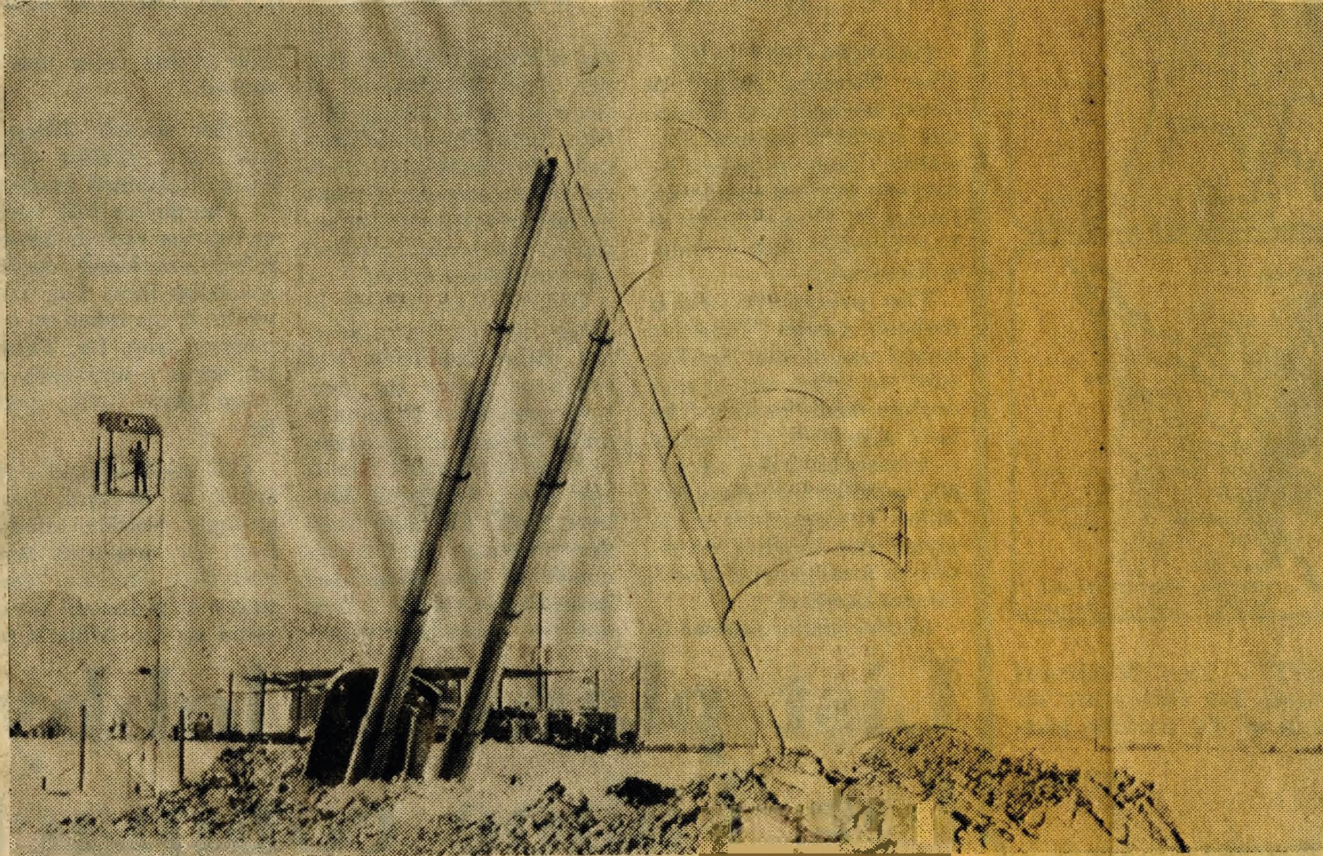
The president chose the MX mobile missile, they said, as one way to make the U.S. nuclear offense less vulnerable to increasingly accurate Soviet warheads.

Still facing him are other tough decisions, including how many cruise missiles to deploy and whether to change the character of the U.S. missile submarine force by arming it heavily enough to knock out Soviet ICBMs — a capability called counterforce.

The president made his MX decision, defense officials said at a background briefing at the Pentagon Friday, in the context of how to make all three legs of the strategic "triad" — land-based ICBMs, submarine missiles and "air breathing" bombers and cruise missiles — less vulnerable in the 1980s and 1990s.

Carter was not pressed to make decisions right away on anything but the land-based ICBMs in the triad, partly because Pentagon specialists believe the Soviets do not yet threaten the other two legs to the same degree.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown has predicted that Soviet warheads will be able to knock out "most Minuteman" ICBM silos "in the early 1980s." The current U.S. land-based strategic missile offense consists of 54 old Titan ICBMs and 1,000 Minuteman missiles. All stand still



MISSILE MECHANISM - This picture shows the breakout mechanism of the MX intercontinental ballistic missile, which can punch through several feet of dirt and concrete in less than one minute to fire the

missile. President Carter has approved full-scale production of that missile. The missile itself is nestled in the large cylindrical tube.

AP photo

in underground silos, making them easy targets for Soviet gunners.

The White House, in confirming that Carter has decided to build the MX, Friday said that this harder-to-hit mobile missile would "strengthen the stability of the strategic balance."

White House spokesman Rex Granum said further that Carter "doesn't believe we can have serious discussions with the Russians if they have any advantage in the arms race."

Secretary Brown has argued that since the Soviets already enjoy the advantage of threatening the existing U.S. land ICBMs

with near total destruction in a surprise strike, the U.S. must respond in the same way — meaning a counterforce capability on both sides.

Defense officials conceded Friday that, given the action-reaction pattern of the arms race, the deployment of the MX may drive the Soviets to making their own land missiles mobile and thus harder to hit.

Granum said Friday that Carter is "prepared to discuss" the implications of both sides deploying mobile missiles when he meets with Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev in Vienna from June 15 to 18 for the

signing of the SALT II treaty.

Each MX is designed to carry 10 H-bombs in its nose. Each bomb would have an explosive power of 335 kilotons. The Carter administration intends to deploy 200 MX missiles, meaning 2,000 nuclear warheads, and to dismantle some older Minuteman missiles to stay within the launcher limits established

by SALT II.

To confront Soviet gunners with more than just a moving target, the Pentagon plan calls for shuttling each MX missile between underground stations spread along 20 miles of a special railway 10 feet below the surface of the earth.

The Soviets, defense officials assert, would not know which of the 8,000 stations planned for the MX net-

work held the 200 MX missiles. The Soviets would have to aim at least one warhead at each of the 8,000 stations to be sure of destroying the MX missiles in a surprise strike, a discouraging proposition, according to the Pentagon.

Some arms control specialists counter that such deployment schemes as the one envisioned for MX will only result in a warhead race as each side deploys enough to cover all the missile-hiding places the other constructs.

Although the Pentagon's deployment plan calls for digging 200 trenches, each 20 miles long and holding one MX missile, on government land in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, it could be built in stages. The Pentagon estimates it will cost \$30 billion and become operational in 1986.

The immediate reaction to Carter's MX decision was mixed. Said Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D.:

"It could represent the biggest single waste of public funds since the Vietnam War. It adds nothing to our defense capability except more surplus overkill..."

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, hailed Carter's MX decision, calling it "an essential step on the way to developing a new and survivable missile for the future."

During the last several weeks of arguing within the administration over the

best way to reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. nuclear offense, Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was said to be at the forefront of those who contended sending more strategic missiles to sea in subma-

rines was preferable to trying to give land missiles more protection.

Now that Carter has killed the B-1 bomber and decided to build the MX, the president must soon make other tough choices.

★★★

Officials state concern on missile base plans

CARSON CITY (AP) — Gov. Robert List says he hopes Nevada can accommodate the massive land-based mobile missile system approved by President Jimmy Carter, but he isn't ready to support it yet.

And two members of Nevada's congressional delegation also said Friday they had strong concerns about making Nevada "a bull's-eye target" in a nuclear war. Major sections of the \$30 billion system probably would be in Nevada.

The governor said "there are still a number of unanswered questions regarding the system and its effect on Nevada." Until those are answered, List said "it is too early for Nevada to respond one way or the other regarding support of locating the system in this state."

Almost half of the 8,000 to 9,000 expected launch shelters could be in Nevada, according to Congressman Jim Santini, D-Nev. List told a press conference the project would be a larger construction project than the Alaskan Pipeline. It is estimated the whole thing would eventually cost \$30 to \$32 billion, providing an immense boost to the state's economy.

List said several proposed launch systems are still under consideration.

"Each of them would have a different impact on our people, our land and our lifestyle."

The project is likely to involve large hunks of Nye, White Pine and Lincoln counties. Santini said the amount of land closed off by the system would probably exceed the estimated 25 to 62 square miles needed for trenches and missile sites themselves, depending on which system is chosen.

The governor said he has expressed "limited support" for "the one which has the least amount of environmental and economic impact on the land and ties up the smallest amount of property."

Santini said he had "grave reservations over how much of the national defense burden one state in the union should have to bear ... We would virtually become a bull's-eye target if we get hit with nuclear warfare."

The congressman said the state already houses the Nuclear Test Site and stores nuclear waste. "At some point, enough's enough," he said.

Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., has mixed feelings about the proposal, according to an aide. While Laxalt thinks the missile would help the state economically, he's "concerned that a Target Zero area would be created out of Nevada, a nuclear bull's eye."

List said he had insisted on a series of public meetings in the state to let citizens learn about the system. "I cannot emphasize enough the necessity of these public meetings to be held throughout Nevada, the first being in July," he said.

He said that after those hearings, "hopefully Nevada can accommodate the missiles."

Nellis MX talk set

The proposed MX nuclear missile system and its possible impact on the state will be the subject of a talk Tuesday by Maj. Gen. John W. Hepfer of Norton Air Force Base, Calif.

Hepfer, deputy commander of intercontinental ballistic missiles at Norton, will address a private luncheon of the Civilian-Military Council of Southern Nevada at Nellis Air Force Base.

Full-scale development of the MX system was announced Friday by President Carter. Parts of Nye, Lincoln and White Pine counties have been proposed as sites for the system, but a final location will not be announced until 1981.

RJ 6-9-79

MX missile system defended

By Mark Dent
R-J Staff Writer

Nevada should not become a primary Soviet missile target if the proposed MX nuclear missile system is placed in the state, the Air Force director of intercontinental ballistic missiles said Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. John W. Hepfer, speaking to the Civilian-Military Council of Southern Nevada at Nellis Air Force Base, said the mobile nature of the system should make it impossible for Soviet satellites to detect the exact locations of the missiles.

"We certainly hope Nevada would not be targeted, because it would be so difficult to find the target," Hepfer said.

The \$20 billion MX system involves spreading 200 missiles among 4,000 launch sites. The missiles will be moved between sites by a network of underground rails or by a truck above ground.

Hepfer said the Soviets would have to fire more missiles than they could afford at launch sites to be sure of destroying the missiles.

"The whole United States is a Soviet missile target," he said. "What we're trying to do is prevent them from attacking."

Hepfer said the MX missile system primarily is defensive in nature. The Soviets will not fire nuclear missiles at the United States, because they know they cannot destroy all U.S. retaliatory capabilities.

The final selection of the missile sites will not be decided until 1980, but Hepfer said parts of Nye, Lincoln and White Pine counties are among the most favored areas for the system.

"Nevada has the most available land. We'd like to get the missiles in one area, because it reduces the cost, and you can put all of them in Nevada," he said. Parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah also are being considered for the sites.

Hepfer said the state in which the missiles are placed will benefit economically during construction of the sites, which will begin in 1983.

He said the launchers will require an amount of concrete equal to 5 percent of the total production of the Western states.

In addition, the service industry in the towns surrounding the sites will receive a temporary boost, he said.

"I don't have exact numbers, but it (economic boost) will be fairly large," said Hepfer.

Gov. Robert List, who favors deployment of the MX system, has expressed concern about how much land would be closed to the public if the system is based in Nevada.

But Hepfer said the entire system, if deployed in horizontal or vertical launchers, would consume only 20 to 30 square miles of public land. About 3.5 acres around each of the 4,000 launch sites would be fenced off, he said.

"I think the president is aware of the environmentalists' desire to use less land, and the Air Force has really tried to accommodate these concerns," he said.

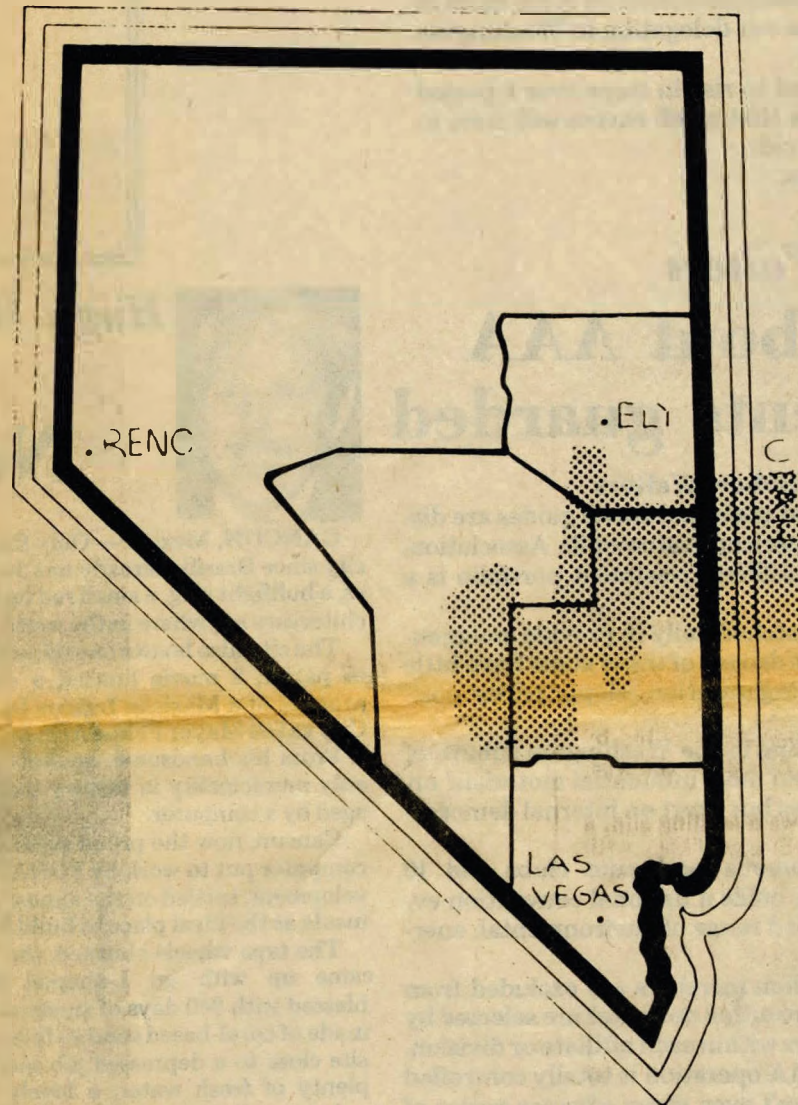
Hepfer said Soviet technological developments have made the American ICBM force vulnerable, and the MX system is necessary to make it more secure from attack.

"Sure, we have a lot of nuclear missiles now, but how many will remain after we're attacked? That's what really counts," he said.

"We're already one round behind the Soviets. All we're trying to do is catch up and maintain some parity with them."



MAJ. GEN. HEPFER
...ICBM director



MX SITE — The shaded area in map above shows the proposed locations for the mobile MX nuclear missile system.

RJ 6-31-79

Boeing welcomes Carter decision, continues MX deployment studies

The Carter Administration's announced decision last Friday to go into full-scale development of the MX intercontinental ballistic missile system was a positive signal to the Boeing MX team, which is involved in studies of how the advanced ICBM will be deployed.

A decision on how the missiles will be based is still pending.

Since 1976, Boeing has been studying basing concepts under contracts from the U.S. Air Force. Basing has become vital to U.S. ICBM systems because increased yield and accuracy of current and developing Soviet missiles have increased the possibility of the U.S. Minuteman force becoming vulnerable in its fixed underground silos. This could be offset by a system featuring mobility of the missiles.

Boeing's MX team, under John Sheridan, has completed contracts to study feasibility of basing missiles in horizontal shelters and in buried trenches several miles long. Last October Boeing received a \$42 million contract to study deployment of the missiles in vertical

underground shelters.

In this concept, a missile would be stored in a transportable launcher containing all necessary support equipment. The launcher would be moved among a number of vertical holes in the ground.

As part of the feasibility study for this concept, Sheridan said Boeing has conducted studies and is now building hardware for tests in Nevada to begin this summer. Hardware includes communications equipment, security equipment, a launcher and a transport vehicle.

About 400 employees currently are working on the contract, which is expected to run until next February.

Meanwhile, Sheridan says, "Regardless of the basing method selected, we anticipate a major role in its development." The basing decision is expected within the next couple of months, he said.

Employment, expected to rise to about 1,000 in 1980, would be derived largely from in-company transfers and persons now on the program.

BOEING NEWS 6-14-79

Air Force Pitchmen Hail MX As Savior

By GARY THOMPSON
SUN Business Writer

Air Force officials vowed Thursday to continue the fight for an MX missile basing mode acceptable to Nevadans concerned about losing access to large areas of public land.

And, calling the MX "the ultimate in deterrence," they said deployment of the advanced multi-warhead missiles in Nevada would greatly reduce the likelihood of a Soviet preemptive attack against targets in this state.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Stafford and Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker, enroute to a Friday briefing of Gov. Robert List, told the SUN Pentagon officials will meet July 12 to discuss optional systems for deploying 200 missiles in Nevada and Utah, the two states topping the list of potential MX launch sites.

Following the Pentagon meeting, Defense Department and National Security Council members will prepare recommendations for President Carter, who is expected to decide on the basing mode by the end of July.

The recent announcement of the Carter administration's approval of MX development created an uproar in Nevada and Utah when it was revealed that

(Please See AIR FORCE, Page 4)

Air Force Praises MX Missile

(Continued From Page 1)

the State Department was pushing for the use of covered trenches to deploy the missiles — a concept that could close off 14,000 to 16,000 square miles of land.

But Pentagon officials immediately emphasized that no basing decision had been made, and indicated they were strongly opposed to the underground trench concept because of environmental and cost considerations.

Furthermore, the White House quickly ordered the Air Force to begin research on a covered trench mode that includes a "point security system" using a series of 4.3-acre launch sites closed to civilian traffic.

A trench basing mode with point security would require about 100 square miles to be closed to civilian use, compared with about 25 square miles for a vertical launch system linked by roads.

Stafford said Thursday that he still strongly favors a deployment system using either vertical or horizontal launch sites, or "hard points," connected by a series of roads or rails open to public access except during actual placement of the missiles underground.

The Soviet Union, however, has argued that it would be unable to verify U.S. compliance with the SALT II treaty if the 200 MX missiles the pact allows are periodically shifted among the 5,200 hard points spread across the Southwest.

As a result, State Department officials have been pushing for underground trenches or horizontal launch sites connected by roads. With either system, the U.S. could open the massive concrete lids covering the missiles, thus enabling Russian spy satellites to get more reliable intelligence data because of the larger area uncovered.

Hecker said 5,200 hard points are

now planned — up from the 4,500 originally scheduled — because of new intelligence data revealing a greater number of Soviet warheads than expected.

The more warheads the Soviets deploy, he said, the more hard points the U.S. will build to ensure "they never have enough confidence in their ability to destroy our strategic missile system to even think of launching a first strike."

"If you can't be certain you'll destroy all of an enemy's missiles in one strike, then you have no incentive to initiate a first strike. It's the ultimate in deterrence," Hecker said.

Stafford and Hecker are visiting Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico this week to seek support from the states' chief executives for the MX system. Next month, Air Force officials will meet with citizens of the states to answer questions about the MX.

LV SUN

6-29-79

List backing MX missile project

CARSON CITY (AP) — Nevada Gov. Bob List said Friday he now strongly supports location of an \$8 billion MX missile project here and doesn't think it would make Nevada anymore of a "bull's eye" than it is already.

List made his comments after a meeting with Air Force Lt. Gen. Tom Stafford and Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker Jr., on a "selling" tour of Nevada, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico — all under consideration for the MX system.

Earlier this month, List had said he wasn't yet ready to support the massive land-based mobile missile system, because there were too many "unanswered questions."

Now, said List, his "strong feeling" is that Nevada should seek the system. He said the project would be "compatible with our ex-

isting environment and multiple use concept of public lands."

That environment, quipped Stafford, a former astronaut, is typically "desertland where a rattlesnake would have a hard time making a living." If Nevada was chosen, about 25 square miles of land in Nye, White Pine and Lincoln counties could be involved.

List said he favored a "shell game" MX system in which some 5,200 two or three-acre launch sites would be constructed and about 200 missiles could be moved from one site to another.

But he said he was opposed to a trenching system which would have required "millions and millions and millions of acres" more. The Air Force is not recommending that system now, nor are congressional committees dealing with the MX issue.

List said the system as now proposed by the Air Force would

cost \$8 billion. That's down from an earlier estimate of \$30 billion. He said the system, once completed, would require the employment of 12,000 to 14,000 persons, with half of those being civilians.

That would mean a \$400 million annual payroll and an overall boost of \$1 billion to Nevada's economy, the governor said.

The argument that Nevada could become a "bull's-eye target" with the MX system here was raised by U.S. Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., and Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., in earlier comments.

But List said that argument doesn't hold water. He said Nevada already has several military targets and is "downwind" from many California targets as well. And he added that "the best defense is a good offense."

R J 6-29-79

Alliance opposes MX missile

The Cactus Alliance, an umbrella organization of anti-nuclear groups from Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado, has announced its opposition to the development of the MX missile project.

The group issued a resolution condemning the project at its June business meeting which was recently held in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Fred Landau, a spokesman for the Nevada-based Sagebrush Alliance, said Friday that the alliance opposes the MX missile project because it will destabilize the balance of weapons.

R J 6-30-79

AF expects warm welcome in Ely

ELY (AP) — The economically depressed community that lost out in the legislative prison derby was expected to turn out in full force Saturday to welcome a Pentagon general bearing tidings of the MX missile system.

Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker, a top U.S. Air Force salesman for the proposed "shell game" missile network, will describe the system to several hundred Eastern Nevadans at a dinner sponsored by the White Pine County Chamber of Commerce.

Ely, hard hit by the shutdown of Kennecott Copper Corp. operations last year, tried in vain to get the 1979 Legislature to locate a new medium-security prison in White Pine County in its drive to keep the area's faltering economy alive. The community was successful in promoting legislative for a massive power plant in the county, although that project is not slated to begin for several years.

The U.S. Air Force wants to build a \$40 billion missile system and its prime site is from Ely south into northern Arizona. Plans call for 200 missiles to be scattered randomly among 4,500 concrete silos, making it virtually impossible to knock out the defense network, military officials have said.

The economic ramifications cited by the Air Force are impressive — 25,000 jobs and an annual payroll approaching \$500 million.

"It'd be hard to turn down," said Chamber Manager Betty Whitehurst, "as long as they pick silos instead of trenches."

Whitehurst was referring to the MX design, which is yet to be selected by President Carter. The Air Force and governors of the states which might be affected — including Gov. Robert List — have endorsed installing the missiles in concrete silos which would require less land than other alternatives such as underground railroads.

RJ-7-15-79

New MX missile plan proposed

The Washington Post
WASHINGTON - Objections by Western governors to the amount of their land needed for the proposed cement trench system to base the planned 200 MX mobile ICBMs has led the Pentagon to abandon that idea and propose another, according to Defense Department officials.

Last month, President Carter announced his decision to build and deploy the \$30 billion-plus land-based intercontinental missile system and make it mobile so it would not be vulnerable to a Soviet first-strike attack.

But finding a basing mode that would hide the giant MX missiles, yet still make them available for the Soviets to count under SALT 2 provisions, has proved difficult.

The task has been further complicated by a need to meet the political and environmental desires of the residents of Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, where the missiles are to be located.

The newest basing favorite, according to one Defense official, seems to satisfy everyone's needs, though it has emerged only in the past month after earlier proposals fell by the wayside.

As currently envisioned, each MX missile would ride on a transporter-launcher on a race track-shaped roadway that would have 20 to 25 protective cement shelters on sideroads, or spurs, some 1 - 2 miles apart.

The race tracks — probably in groups of four — would be located in valleys, primarily on government-owned land.

The missile on its transporter would move from shelter to shelter in an irregular pattern and would have the ability to "dash" from one shelter to a distant one if there was

warning of attack.

The roofs of the shelters could be pulled back to show that there was only one missile on each race track.

The only fenced-off portion of the new system would be the two to 2½ acres around each cement shelter that might, or might not, contain the traveling MX missile.

The official said he hoped a presidential policy review committee would approve the basing system by next week so Defense Secretary Harold Brown could take the program to the White House.

RJ. - 7-18-79

Brown Answers SALT II Opponents

MX Missile Decision Near



Brown Makes Point

UPI/Photo

Defense Secretary Harold Brown, right, tells Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, during a hearing on the SALT II treaty that the administration will decide in several weeks how to base the MX missiles.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Defense Secretary Harold Brown Tuesday promised Senate SALT opponents the administration will make the key decision within weeks on how to base the new MX missile.

But he ended two days of testimony with critics on the Senate Armed Services Committee still dissatisfied.

"I am pressing the Air Force and my own staff on the cost, and the survivability (of MX basing). We'll have a decision on that in weeks," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He referred to tentative plans to stash the multi-warhead missiles in hundreds of miles of trenches in the southwestern part of the United States — moving them around at intervals to keep them from being vulnerable to Soviet missiles.

Committee Chairman John Stennis, D-Miss., had to cut short questions from critical Sens. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., and John Tower, R-Tex., after Brown's eight and a half hours of testimony.

Jackson was shaking his head disapprovingly when Stennis cut him off as Brown was answering a question about Soviet encoding of missile test telemetry.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," said Tower. "I hope we can have this witness back."

Brown said he would be appalled if the United States could not ratify a treaty it had negotiated. This, he said, would make it difficult to introduce new weapons, like cruise missiles, into several European countries.

Earlier, Brown said the United States might fire its vulnerable missiles against the Soviet Union before they could be knocked out by a Russian attack against them.

Brown's warning, a significant departure from previous U.S. strategic policy, was apparently calculated to reassure skeptical senators of America's will to resist a Soviet attack, and as a warning to the Russians.

SUN - 7-25-79

New MX plan a 'racetrack' scheme

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's latest "racetrack" scheme for basing a new MX supermissile involves a Rube Goldberg collection of machinery and gimmickry to make the rocket concealable and movable yet still detectable by Soviet spy satellites.

The \$30 billion system (at least that is the Pentagon's latest cost estimate) will involve a heavy-duty, four-track railroad line, a 210-foot-long box to provide camouflage for the rocket and its truck-transporter and huge concrete barriers that will be con-

structed and destroyed deliberately to facilitate Soviet monitoring of what is going on.

As described in an authoritative Pentagon document made available to The Washington Post, this is how the new system — now the one preferred in the Pentagon — will operate:

A series of valleys in the deserts of Nevada and Utah will be paved with 200 separate "racetracks," or roughly oval paved roadways, each with 23 separate spur roads that look like driveways in a housing development. Each spur will lead to a concrete-and-steel shel-

ter strong enough to withstand all but a nearly direct hit by a Soviet nuclear weapon. The shelters will be about 11½ miles apart. Each racetrack will be about seven miles across and two or three miles wide.

There will be just one MX missile for each of the 200 racetracks. The idea is to move the missile from one shelter at random, in ways the Soviets cannot detect, to fool Soviet targeters who might contemplate a strike to try to wipe out the entire MX force.

As the system is designed, 200

missiles will be shuttled among 4,600 planners reckon, the Soviets would have to aim two extremely accurate missile warheads at each shelter, for a total of 9,200. This is more than the Soviets would have under SALT II, though without the treaty they would acquire that many or more.

The Pentagon calculates that it could add more shelters if the Soviets add more warheads.

The system is intended to provide invulnerable land-based rockets, but it is also meant to be "verifiable" under SALT III, if

there is such a treaty. (The system will not be deployed until 1986, a year after SALT II expires.) This forces the Pentagon to design complicated facilities into the racetrack scheme to ensure the Soviets that there is only one missile per racetrack.

To begin with, the system would be assembled in a "designated assembly area" in facilities that are as open as possible, perhaps with removable roofs that take at least a week to assemble each missile, and only one missile put together at a time.

RJ - 7-26-79

★★★

Governor objects to MX system

Gov. Robert List said Friday he recently informed the White House of his opposition to the so-called "zipper" deployment method for the MX missile launch and expected President Carter to announce a silo-type deployment system within the month.

"My personal preference is a vertical silo because it would be less injurious to Nevada and leave areas open for hunting and fishing," List told a news conference.

"I've advised the White House I am opposed to the 'zipper' mode and am assured to some large extent, based on my objections, we do not anticipate the White House to go along with that type (meaning zipper) mode."

Related report, Page 2A

The "zipper" launch system of the MX missile refers to the use of underground trenches between which the missiles would be rotated to avoid detection by the enemy.

The method favored by List calls for deployment of the sophisticated missile from silos. MX missiles would be moved from silo to silo, referred to by List as a "shell game," which would keep the enemy unaware of which silos contained warheads.

The governor concluded a two-day tour of the Nevada Test Site Friday which included a briefing on nuclear waste experiments, nuclear waste storage, the MX missile and the viewing of an underground nuclear test on closed circuit cameras.

He said scientists were constructing an MX missile silo on the test site which presumably would be used for test purposes once President Carter announced the type of MX missile system to be developed by the United States.

25
8.4. 1979

Government plans MX warheads

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has requested two different warhead designs — one packing almost twice the power of the other be developed further for use on the new, giant MX mobile ICBM, according to informed sources.

Each MX warhead will carry 10 individual bombs — termed re-entry vehicles — that can be aimed at separate targets. Each bomb in one design, reportedly favored by Defense Secretary Harold Brown, would have a yield of about 335 kilotons, equivalent to 335,000 tons of TNT. The Hiroshima bomb was 12.6 kilotons.

The second design, favored by Air Force officers involved in the missile program, would have 500-kiloton bombs.

Rather than choosing now between the two warheads, the Pentagon has asked the Department of Energy to have both designs developed further.

A well-placed administration source held out the possibility Tuesday that both warheads eventually could be deployed on the 200 missiles to be built.

At the same time, it was learned that a presidential Review Committee, chaired by Brown, met at the White House on Tuesday and agreed that the so-called "race-track" basing mode for the MX be recommended to Carter for his final approval.

Carter's decision to build the \$30 billion-plus MX missile system was announced in early June, before the SALT II summit with the Soviets.

He postponed, saying how the mobile missiles would be based until studies were completed on various proposals.

Administration officials said Tuesday they expect Carter to announce the approved "racetrack" program in early September.

Under this concept, each giant MX would be carried on a mobile transporter-launcher around a racetrack-shaped area with cement-hardened parking shelters at 1-12 mile intervals.

Between 20 and 25 shelters would be built for each of 200 "racetracks," which would be home for each MX missile.

Since the Soviets would not know in which shelter an MX was located, they would have to use up an unacceptable number of warheads, U.S. planners believe, to carry out a first strike against the system.

If the Soviets expand the number of warheads on their ICBMs, Air Force planners have suggested a mobile anti-ballistic missile system could be developed to add protection to each MX "racetrack." But such a situation is not expected to develop — if at all — until well after 1985. The SALT II treaty now awaiting Senate ratification puts a cap on Soviet warheads, but it expires in 1985.

Because the racetracks do not involve either tunnels below ground, or holes in the ground — as have earlier MX basing schemes — they are expected to be accepted on government-owned land by residents of Utah and Nevada residents, where the MX systems are to be located.

The further study of two warhead designs for the MX has political and technical overtones.

As our biggest ICBM, the MX is being compared to the much larger Soviet SS-18, which carries a reported 10 bombs each with a yield of about 750 kilotons.

Sources within the U.S. nuclear weapons community believe the administration may develop and eventually deploy the Air Force-favored 500-kiloton warhead design,

because it comes closer to approximating the SS-18's power, a fact that could prove useful in the Senate SALT II debate.

Other sources note, however, that the higher accuracy of the U.S. warheads negates the Soviet larger yields.

Both U.S. designs and the SS-18 are considered capable of destroying cement-hardened silos in which an opponents' missile is based.

"The dust will be somewhat smaller where the SS-18 lands," was the way one nuclear weapons scientist described the situation.

Another potential problem in the decision to pursue two warheads comes from the strong competition over the MX design that has been waged between Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico and Lawrence

Livermore Laboratory in California, the nation's two nuclear weapons laboratories.

RJ - 8-8-79

Environmental debate forces MX change

By Kent Lauer
R-J Staff Writer

Horizontal shelters have been recommended to replace deep trenches in the MX missile system because of environmental objections, an Air Force general said Tuesday in Las Vegas.

Brig. Gen. Guy L. Hecker Jr., a special assistant for the MX weapons project, said the trench approach to housing and protecting the intercontinental ballistic missiles was scrapped because of concerns expressed by Gov. Robert List and Utah Gov. Scott Matheson.

Hecker addressed the Chamber of Commerce.

The governors, whose states are primary locations for the land-base missile system, have objected to the trench concept because it would tie up too much public land.

List had proposed a vertical silo system to house the 200 missiles.

However, Hecker said the Air Force shied away

from the vertical holes because of treaty verification and mobility problems.

One objection to the vertical system, he said, was that if the Soviet Union mounted an attack against the MX missile base it would take a "good while to relocate the missiles."

Related story, Page 1B

It would also be difficult to expose the verticle missile shelters for verification by the Soviets as called for in the SALT agreement, Hecker said.

The \$30 billion-plus MX missile system would involve diffusing the 200 weapons among 4,600 launch sites. As envisioned, each missile would be transported to a race track-shaped cluster of launch sites by a rail-way system.

To discourage a Soviet attack, the Air Force would disguise the 200 missiles by shuffling

them among the various launch sites.

Hecker said the loops or clusters of launch sites would be placed 7,000 feet apart to add another deterrent against a Soviet attack.

He estimated that only 25 square miles of public land would be consumed by the missile base.

Fences will be constructed around each cement shelter that may or may not hold a missile. About 2½ acres would be fenced off for each site.

To alleviate ranchers' fears that the fences may harm their herds, the government will consult with them on the type of fencing, Hecker said.

Purpose of the MX missile system will be to "maintain a credible deterrent force" against a Russian attack, said Hecker, a fighter pilot. It is not intended to be deployed as a first strike against enemies, he added.

Calling development of the MX missile the coun-

try's most critical and crucial strategic move, Hecker said the future of the nation is at stake with the project.

The Air Force general said the system will be a successful attack deterrent because of its high survivability.

Hecker predicted that 60 percent of the missiles could survive a Soviet attack because of the method in which they are diffused and shuttled. Less than 10 percent of the country's Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles would survive a direct attack, he said.

"We can use it anytime we want to," he said of the MX system. "We will always have the capability to strike back" in excess of what the Soviets will be willing to accept.

Hecker also said there will be no need for advanced warning of an attack because of the survivability rate of the MX missile base mode.

Responding to criticism that the missile base would be a sponge for Soviet attack, Hecker said he doubted that would be the case because of the method of spreading out

the launch sites.

He said the launch points could be increased if the Soviets boosted their military strength.

Hecker also said the MX project would not be antiquated in 20 years.

Engineering design work has begun on the missiles, with full-scale production and deployment scheduled to begin in the mid-1980s.

Final selection of the

missile base site will be made next year. Western Utah and Southern Nevada are considered to be the primary locations.

About 22,000 workers will be employed to construct the system.

RT
8.14.1979



SEN. CANNON
...SALT factor



...supports Carter?

Cannon backing MX missiles

By Jeanne M. Hall
R-J Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., came out in support of the MX missile system on Monday.

"I'm very much in favor of it. As a matter of fact, it's a key factor in the SALT agreement. It's the only missile system that would be permitted us under the SALT agreement," Cannon said.

Cannon said no formal legislation has been drafted to create an MX missile system, but money has been set aside for it in the defense appropriations bill. The system is under study.

The MX is an intercontinental ballistic missile that would be used to counter Soviet missiles. Eastern Nevada is considered one of the prime locations for the missile system.

25
8.14.1979

MX Missile Sites Selected in Nevada

By WADE CAVANAUGH
SUN Staff Writer

Sites in Southern and Eastern Nevada have already been selected by the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force as the prime location for 4,600 MX missile sites.

Construction of one vertical test missile shelter was completed in June near Indian Springs, it was reported Tuesday.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Guy L. Hecker Jr., responsible for policy budget and techniques of the MX Missile program for the Air Force, told members of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce at the Las Vegas Convention Center that final selection and approval will be made next summer.

The 4,600 missile sites, each 7,000 feet apart and comprised of 2½ acres, will cover a huge tract of land in the area of Indian Springs Air Force Base, the Nevada Test Site, part of Eastern Nevada and a small chunk of Western Utah.

Gen. Hecker said the one vertical test site already completed near Indian Springs will be followed later by another horizontal one to be constructed. He did not specify the location.

The prototype missile site, constructed very quietly, cost \$2.3 million. This includes satellite projects which are undergoing experiment. The site itself is 16.5 feet in diameter, he said.

Final approval of the area as the home for the \$27 billion MX project will be made by President Carter, who will act on recommendations of the National Security Council and the Secretary of Defense, he added.

Hecker met later Tuesday with Clark County officials downtown.

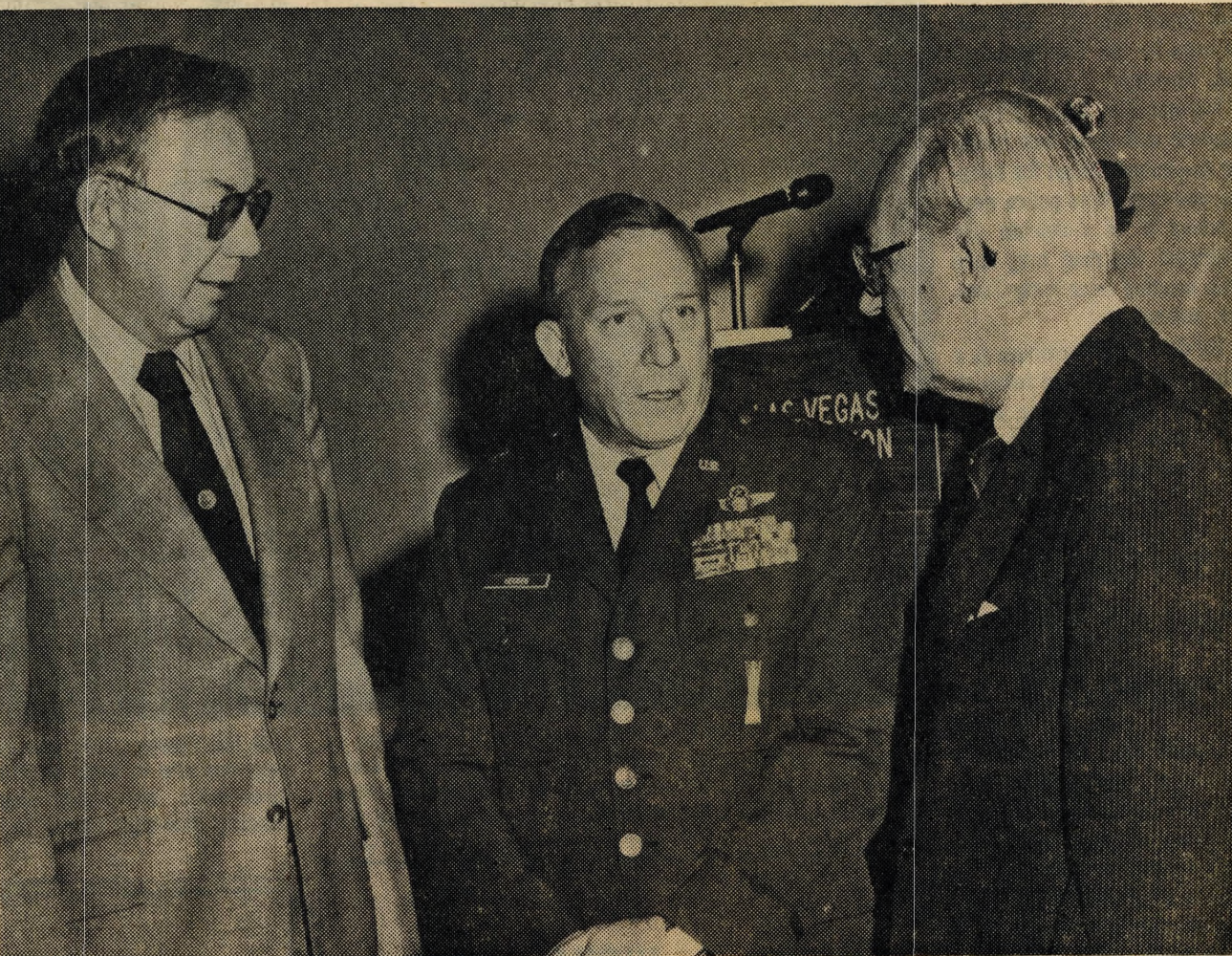
"It seems to me you are making Nevada a central target," County Commissioner Thalia Dondero told Hecker, as he explained the project.

"With Hoover Dam, Nellis Air Force Base, the (nuclear) test site and now the MX missiles, Clark County would be a prime target," Dondero said.

Hecker said that, without the MX, the entire United States could be the target of an attack.

"If the United States is attacked, it will be only a difference between being hit directly or dying from radiation," the general said, adding that "no place is safe, in the event of full scale war."

Dondero said the military should



MISSILE BRIEFING — U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker Jr., chats with Frank Johnson, left, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce president-elect, and Mahlon Gates, manager of the Department of Energy's Las Vegas

office, Tuesday, when he told chamber members about the proposed \$27 billion MX missile system, which will be located in east-central Nevada and west-central Utah.

(SUNfoto by Ken Jones)

consider starting the complex of missile sites at Hawthorne, between Tonopah and Reno, which already has railroad tracks and bunkers at an ammunition dump, which is being phased out.

Pointing to the estimated 22,000 persons needed to build the system and 12,000 to operate it, County Commissioner Bob Broadbent said the MX would be beneficial to Clark County's economy.

At the earlier meeting, Hecker said total costs are expected to reach \$50 billion by the end of the project because of inflation.

In a selling pitch on behalf of the MX program, Hecker told Chamber officials, "The silo site would need a direct hit and has the highest survival rate. The MX will last from 25 to 30 years and be useful anytime and give us

greatest deterrent posture against attack by the Russians."

He noted President Carter in June gave approval for engineering and development of the MX missile which will take an estimated five years with actual production tentatively slated for 1983 and 1984.

"It would take 10 to 11 years to have them fully operational in the field," he said.

On the selection of the MX missile, of which 200 would be initially constructed, he said the DOD and Air Force eliminated 39 other options including expansion of the present Minuteman missiles which, "are already 20 years old and would cost more than the MX."

He said at present the United States has 54 Titan missiles and 550 Minuteman III missiles located in 1,054 sites in

the U.S., many of them in the Southwest.

He said that Gov. List had already inspected the 126-foot deep vertical shelter at Indian Springs. The MX missile would be 71 feet long, 92 inches in diameter, will weigh 190,000 pounds and will have 10 re-entry warheads.

The MX missiles would be housed in shield cones which would allow deployment of the missiles at various locations at the proposed MX site in order to confuse the Russians.

The President would have the ability to move any missile from one site to another by pressing a button.

In supporting the MX program, he said it would be a basis for significant arms reduction by both countries and would be a disincentive for a first-strike against the United States by the Russians.



SUN-8-16-79

Dick West/The Lighter Side

Everybody's All-Time Favorite Missile

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Okay, parlor game lovers. Let's play around round of "Hide the Missile."

Remember a year or so ago there was talk of digging a bunch of holes in the ground and moving MX missiles from one hole to another so the Soviets could never be sure which holes they were in?

Well, that plan, informally known as "The Shell Game," was abandoned on grounds it might prompt the Soviets to build surplus missile holes of their own, thus making it more difficult for the United States to verify how many missiles they had.

...

And remember the substitute plan last spring to put the missiles on tracks in 20-mile long concrete trenches and run them back and forth between launching sites?

Well, that idea recently was abandoned, too. Seems the governors of four western states where the missiles would be located weren't convinced that corrugating the terrain with cement furrows fitted their region's "land use" concept.

So now the boys at the Pentagon have come up with another alternative — build some oval roadways, lace them with covered shelters and move the missiles around the track from shelter to shelter on mobile launchers.

...

But I don't think it's going to go over so big either.

What it amounts to, essentially, is missile busing. And you know what an emotional issue busing has become.

So I'm afraid it's back to the drawing boards for the MX game plan.

If I were on the strategy board, I would recommend linking the MX "basing mode," as it is called, to the water projects that are so dear to the hearts of the American West.

...

President Carter, who has approved the \$30 billion missile system, keeps trying to kill off some of the waterworks, claiming they are boondoggles. There should be room for a trade-off here.

If those concrete missile trenches referred to above were filled with water, you can bet the governors would love them.

Then they could transport the missiles on barges, rather than on tracks, and everyone would be happy.

Another possibility would be to tie the MX system into energy development, which is very big right now.

...

In his recent energy speeches, the president spoke of producing synthetic oil from coal and shale. But surface mining, needed to extract the coal and shale, is as bad for the landscape as concrete trenches.

Very well. Let the Energy Department go ahead and dig up the coal and shale. Then let the Defense Department use the ditches and holes to hide missiles in.

Doubling up like that might not entirely overcome environmentalist objections. But at least it would be less controversial than busing.

SUN-8-22-79

Laxalt says Nevada MX system 'a long shot'

RENO (AP) — The chance of building the proposed \$26 billion MX missile system in Nevada "is a long shot," U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt said Monday, warning that the weapons could have serious environmental and psychological effects on the state.

"I think you've got so many problems, I don't think you're going to get it (in Nevada)," said Laxalt, R-Nev.

The senator said he fa-

vors construction of the system, a major defense project designed to make U.S. intercontinental missiles invulnerable to Soviet attack.

But the conservative Laxalt said there's "no reason we have to have it within the continental limits (of the United States) and subject our population to a nuclear bullseye." He suggested a "South Seas island" might be more appropriate.

President Jimmy Carter's review committee has

recommended an MX system which would place 23 hardened "racetrack" roads around the Utah and Nevada deserts. Two hundred missiles, each packing 10 nuclear warheads, would shuttle along the tracks among 4,600 hardened launch structures, making it almost impossible for an enemy to know which structures to hit with its missiles.

During an informal session with Northern Nevada newsmen, Laxalt said he

thinks "the MX was thrown to the conservatives as a political bone" to help in passage of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty — which he thinks will be approved.

But while Laxalt said he thinks the MX is necessary, he offered a barrage of objections to placing it in Nevada. "I don't think anyone would challenge the premise that if we got into a nuclear war, we'd be the No. 1 targets," he said.

Laxalt also said that whi-

le the system would be an economic boon, it would have tremendous effects on the environment. Federal spokesmen have said the system would employ 12,000 to 14,000 people, with an annual payroll of \$400 million. But environmentalists and land-using interests have complained that the missiles might lock up too much of the state's land.

Laxalt also said that federal agencies may have

"created a credibility problem" in Nevada after revelations that the government tested atomic weapons in the state despite knowing their radiation would harm nearby citizens.

Laxalt noted that he himself had spoken in favor of the Atomic Energy Commission programs. He complained, "it may well be they conned us."

Laxalt said that without the MX missile — someplace — by the mid 1980s

Soviet SS-18 missiles would be able to knock out U.S. Minutemen missiles, destroying nuclear parity.

Asked why nuclear parity is important since the U.S.

would be able to devastate the Soviet Union even with an inferior force, Laxalt replied that there are other political and military considerations.

RJ-8-21-79

Feds Bicker Over MX Costs

Washington Star

WASHINGTON — Disagreement is surfacing within the Carter administration over the cost of the "race track" system for basing a new intercontinental missile.

New cost estimates working their way through the bureaucracy are billions of dollars apart in a program that already has engendered controversy and promises more.

Air Force planners and some key Pentagon civilian analysts are confident that the cost of building and operating a 200-missile system for 10 years, while higher than recently thought, will be under \$30 billion.

Other estimates are higher still with some analysts warning that any prediction is likely to be "soft" given the uncertainties involved.

The new missile, called the Mx, is a matter of intense interest in the debate over U.S. strategic strength that has

accompanied Senate consideration of the new strategic arms limitation treaty with the Soviet Union.

Because of this debate, and because the importance of technical requirements of the treaty, much attention has been focused on details of how the weapon will be based.

It must be deployed so that it can survive a Soviet surprise attack while at the same time permitting high-confidence counting by Soviet spy satellites.

After wrestling with these seemingly paradoxical requirements for some time, the administration appears ready for the "race track" system.

It will involve a total of 4,600 missile shelters built in clusters of 23 linked by an oval track. Each cluster will be the home of one missile. Special transporters will move the missile from one shelter to another in secret.

Soviet missilemen would not know which shelter to shoot at. And even if they found out, the system includes the

ability to rush the missiles to a new hiding place after an attack is under way.

For arms control purposes, the shelters will have plugs that can be lifted out to permit satellites to count the missiles.

New figures worked out by the Air Force and analysts in the Defense Department's research and development groups indicate all this can be done for \$28.4 billion, a figure about a billion more than previous public estimates.

A group composed of representatives of the Office of Management and Budget, the Air Force and the Pentagon's program analysis section took a different approach and came up with higher figures. This combined group was told to look at costs after top administration policy-makers settled on the race track.

This group looked at a number of modifications beyond a bare-bones system. By some accounts, this approach produced a 10-year price tag as high as \$38.7 billion.

SUN-8-22-79

MX Missile Silo Passes One-Shot Launch Test

NEVADA TEST SITE (UPI) — A 120-foot yellow canister, capable of housing a United States MX missile, was raised partially from a vertical silo Thursday to test the launch mechanism of the nuclear weapon.

"It worked. It was a successful test and worked just like we planned. It was going to be a one shot test — success or fail," said Air Force Maj. Bill Jacobs, commander of the MX Vertical Shelter Engineering Test Bed.

The empty canister, driven by hot gas generators, pushed its way through several feet of dirt until about 10 feet of the MX missile housing was exposed. A

support system positioned on top of the canister was jettisoned aside, leaving the canister in a position for the firing of an MX missile. It took an estimated 35 seconds.

No missile was involved in the test Thursday and no projectiles were launched.

Construction of the 130-foot deep, steel-lined silo with a diameter of 16.5 feet began on the Nevada Test Site in January at a cost of \$2.2 million. The test, involving some 100 persons, was conducted three weeks ahead of schedule.

The canister and support system, designed by Boeing at its Seattle plant, were shipped to Southern Nevada

and assembled at the Nevada Test Site experimental silo about three miles north of the small community of Lathrop Wells.

The MX missile test Thursday related to a vertical launch system rather than the "racetrack" horizontal shelter which is expected to be the actual method of deployment used by the United States. With a vertical launch system the MX missiles would be transported on the surface from silo to silo, to prevent the enemy from knowing exact locations of live warheads.

(Please See MX, Page 4)

MX Missile Silo Passes One-Shot Test

(Continued From Page 1)

system the MX missiles would be transported on the surface from silo to silo, to prevent the enemy from knowing exact locations of live warheads.

The test was conducted at the Nevada Test Site the same day Defense Department officials revealed in Washington the Soviet Union sought to block deployment of the MX missile by complaining to the United States it was excessively deceptive and could not be accurately monitored by spy satellites.

U.S. officials said the objections were

rejected repeatedly before President Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev signed the SALT II treaty. Defense officials said Thursday it was significant the Soviets signed the treaty despite the objections, suggesting the Russians privately conceded the MX missile would be verifiable.

Elaborate deception, nevertheless, is an important part of the \$30 billion MX system which President Carter is expected to decide next month to deploy on circular "racetracks" in desert areas

of Utah and Nevada. Soviet satellites will see American technicians assemble the missile before they are introduced into each "racetrack" with its 23 hardened shelters. At that stage the missiles can be counted, as required by the rules established under the SALT II treaty.

After that, the Russians will not know precisely where the missiles are on the "racetracks". The treaty expires the year before the missiles are deployed, but the counting rules are expected to be renewed.

Sun 8.24.1979

Soviet MX Protest Rejected

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States has rejected Soviet complaints that the proposed MX mobile missile system would defy verification under SALT II provisions, defense officials said Thursday.

They said that, on the contrary, U.S. planners have made sure Soviet spy satellites will be able to count the new missiles, so that the Russians may be held to a similarly high standard of verification when they build their own mobile missile system.

Although President Carter has not yet announced his choice of basing systems for the new generation of land-based ICBMs, officials said they expected him to decide in early September in favor of a plan that would deploy 200 MXs on circular "racetracks" in desert areas of Utah and Nevada.

The "racetrack" is basically a circular route with some 23 spurs leading off to hardened shelters, in which the missiles would be protected from nuclear attack.

Under this plan, the MX is assembled in the open and is then moved onto the "racetrack" on a giant transporter.

At that stage, officials said, Soviet satellites can get a good

look at the missiles and count each one, as required by SALT.

Beyond that, however, the MX will have deceptive features designed to prevent Soviet targeters from knowing where they are at any given moment.

As it moves from shelter to shelter, officials said, the MX — or a dummy substitute — is hidden from view by a shield covering the transporter.

Thus, spy satellites can see a transporter move out of a missile shelter but cannot tell whether the MX has been deposited there or is moving with the vehicle.

In fact, the transporter may be carrying heavy rods that approximate the weight of the missile and are designed to have 20 or 30 characteristics associated with the MX, one official said in an interview.

Defense officials said the Soviets raised objections about MX verification in the weeks prior to the signing of the SALT II treaty, and will probably continue raising them.

The noted the Russians signed the treaty anyway, and called that a strong indication the Russians privately concede the MX will be verifiable under SALT.

Missile test called 'a success' here

A Thursday morning test at the Nevada Test Site on how a vertical shelter would operate with the lifting of a simulated MX missile was termed a success by the Air Force.

"It looks as though everything came off as planned," said Maj. William Jacobs, commander at the test facility, after the 30-second experiment, which began at 10:45 a.m. Thursday at the Nevada Test Site.

Purpose of the test was to show how the vertical shaft, holding the simulated missile, performs, along with the lifting of the capsule and its housing canister.

During the brief test, gas generators ignited, pushing the 348,000-pound simulated missile and its housing about 40 feet vertically through the 126-foot-deep shaft.

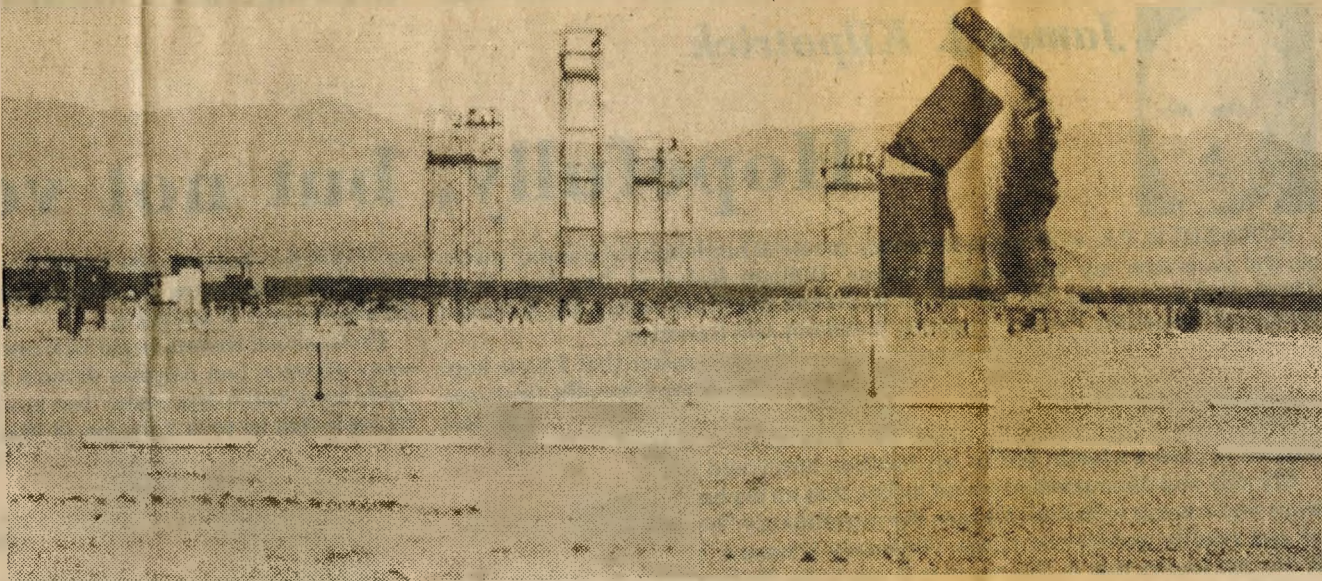
When the simulated missile was lifted through the surface of the launch pad, it moved about 50,000 pounds of dirt covering and a closure lid over the vertical shaft. About 10 feet of the MX missile housing was exposed.

As the fake missile pushed upward, the debris, closure lid and a canister containing support equipment was pushed off to the right of the shaft, exposing the projectile for launching.

Jacobs said the debris was intentionally placed over the launch site to simulate the effects of a nearby explosion from an enemy attack.

Actually, the test resembled a giant yellow tin can growing out of the dirt pad and popping its lid.

A group of Air Force and Test Site



MX MISSILE TESTED — Air Force officials said a Thursday morning test of a vertical shelter for the proposed MX missile system and the lifting of a simulated capsule were successful. A closure lid for the vertical

officials, along with a row of cameramen, viewed the test from about 75 yards away. A short round of applause signaled the end of the test.

Parts of Utah and south-central Nevada are considered the first choice for the 10,000-square mile missile base system.

Although final plans have not been approved, a presidential committee has recommended a race track road system has been recommended for the

shelter and a canister containing support equipment are shown falling off to the side, as planned in the experiment at the Nevada Test Site.

R-J photo

system, in which 200 missiles would be buried.

Each missile, carrying 10 nuclear warheads, would be carried to the 23 race track clusters by a railway system. To discourage a Soviet attack, the 200 missiles would be shuttled among about 4,600 launch sites — some of which would contain a live weapon and others a simulated capsule.

Jacobs said Thursday's test was de-

signed to gather data on the interaction between the debris, support systems, closure lid and simulated missile in the event the MX was deployed. It was the only test planned for the vertical missile protection and launching mode.

The technical problems in the proposed \$27 billion MX missile system are not associated with missile development but rather involve the basing or launch mode, he said.

Which basing mode to use for the intercontinental ballistic missile system has not been decided. A presidential committee is scheduled to make a recommendation this fall.

However, Air Force officials have announced their support for a horizontal, garage-type shelter to house the missiles rather than the vertical shaft involved in Thursday's test.

Earlier this month, Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker Jr. said the Air Force is recommending horizontal shelters because of Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty verification and mobility reasons.

Even though there is a strong possibility the horizontal basing mode will be chosen, Jacobs said the test of the vertical shelter was useful.

Many of the basic mechanical elements of the two missile protection and launching systems are similar, he said.

Jacobs said he did not know the total cost of Thursday's test, but he estimated that construction costs for the test facility, a few miles north of Lathrop Wells, were \$2.2 million.

Parts for the test, including the simulated missile, were manufactured by Boeing at its Seattle plant.

Work on the test facility began in February. The U.S. Department of Energy assisted in plans. The test was completed about three weeks ahead of its projected schedule.

Jacobs said the next test planned for the MX missile system will be on a huge truck designed to move the missiles in and out of launching site.

RJ 8.24.1979

Santini Doesn't Want 'Nuclear Fortress' In Nevada

By RAY LEYDECKER
SUN Staff Writer

Will Nevadans one day be living in a "nuclear fortress?"

Not if Congressman Jim Santini can help it.

Though some advocate the entire \$26 billion MX-missile system being located in Nevada, Santini does not. He supports the program, and favors a portion of it being established in this state, but not the whole project — 70 percent of the nation's nuclear defense.

"Every time an undesirable program that might produce a political backlash is considered in Washington — underground nuclear testing, nuclear waste disposal, now the MX-missile site — Nevada is regarded with some favor," Santini said.

Why?

"Simply because our political climate is more compatible to establishing politically sensitive programs here than in other states," answered Santini.

"Let them put a portion of the system in other states — Arizona, Utah, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming, North or South Dakota," Santini said.

The Defense Department — for administrative and logistical reasons — would prefer to locate the MX-missile system in one area.

"Nevadans are going to stand up and do their share," Santini said. "But it just seems to me that 70 percent of the nation's nuclear defense is in excess of doing our share. We are being asked to carry almost all of the load, and that seems to me unreasonable."

The image that Nevada has worked so hard to establish could be destroyed if such a massive defense installation is located here, Santini said.

"We can lose our whole identity. We could convert our image from the Silver State to the Nuclear Weapons State," he said.

Although Santini supports the MX-missile system he fears that it will be "outdated" by the time of its completion in 1989. He said he has expressed this view

to the Department of Defense and is "not totally satisfied with the answer I received."

Another drawback to the MX-missile system being located exclusively in Nevada would be the "boom-and-bust" effect it would have on our economy, Santini said.

"You would have an extraordinary infusion of dollars and jobs for the period of construction," he said.

"Then there would be a nuclear fortress installed in the middle of our state that would assume an identity of a proportion far beyond the temporary benefits received in terms of dollars and jobs."

Concerning a proposal by Nevada Senator Paul Laxalt that the MX-missile system be located on a "South Seas Island," Santini said:

"I think that is illogical and improbable. I think there would be administrative and political problems."

Sun 8.31.1979

New Bombers Big Question

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Air Force is confident the \$30 billion MX missile system will be built but the high command still differs over the future of strategic bombers.

In an interview, Gen. Lew Allen, Air Force chief of staff, said there is a continuing division of opinion in high military circles over upgrading the aging B-52s or turning FB-111 fighter-bombers into bombers capable of penetrating Soviet airspace.

Gen. Richard Ellis, commander of the Strategic Air Command, strongly advocates conversion of the FB-111s.

However, Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, believes any increases in the military budget should go largely to "mundane items" related to overall military readiness.

"We (in the Air Force) have not reached just where to come out on that," Allen said. "We are still debating the issue."

Ellis is reported deeply concerned about the development

of Soviet aircraft with sophisticated "look-down" radar which can spot and kill low-flying U.S. bombers in the period 1983-1988.

The FB-111 is much faster and smaller than the subsonic B-52s and hence harder to spot and shoot down.

Jones believes other necessities come ahead of the FB-111 conversion.

"It's simply a matter of priorities," Allen said of the differences.

Allen noted past budget cutting has left a number of "glaring deficiencies" and other high priority claims:

—The Air Force is short on cargo airlift capability to move major pieces of Army equipment to Europe or Asia in case of war.

—War reserves need to be reviewed; the survivability and location of depots needs to be improved.

—The Air Force must develop an aircraft to carry cruise missiles.

The increased Soviet air de-

fense capability is expected during the so-called "window of vulnerability" when America's Minutemen missile force could be wiped out by a Soviet surprise attack.

The MX missile, far less vulnerable than the Minutemen, will not be fully deployed until 1989.

Allen said he was confident the MX will be deployed and rejected fears by some officials the environmental lobby is so strong it could block establishment of the new missile system in desert areas of Nevada and Utah.

He acknowledged the MX system will face "cumbersome" environmental legislation.

Other Air Force moves to meet environmental concerns include:

—Hardened shelters for MX missiles will not be located near exploitable mineral resources.

—Water wells drilled for concrete making will be turned over to local authorities.

—Civilians will be allowed to use the special MX roadways.

—Cattle will be able to graze right up to the wire fences surrounding the MX shelters.

SUN. 9-5-79

Laxalt comment under fire

RENO (AP) — U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt's suggestion of putting the MX missile system on "a South Seas island" was just a "throwaway" line — not a firm recommendation — press aide Bill Martin said Monday.

"Unfortunately, some people are now under the impression the senator is now in favor of putting it on a South Seas island. That's just one of the ide-

as that should be considered," Martin said.

Laxalt, a Republican, told reporters recently that he favors putting the massive MX system someplace "outside the continental limits" of the Un-

ited States — and someplace outside of Nevada if it is built here.

The senator said he fears that the MX, which would hide 200 nuclear missiles among 4,300 silos, would turn the state

into a "nuclear bullseye" during a war and would take up too much of the state's land.

But he told reporters recently he would favor putting the missile here if Nevadans want it and if no suitable sites can be found elsewhere.

Martin said such a site could be "anywhere in the world. There's no sense limiting it only to Nevada." But he also said he couldn't think of any nations which might want the missile system.

Nevada state news

RJ. - 9-4-79

Union council backs MX system

The Southern Nevada Building Trades Council endorsed construction of the MX missile system in Nevada and Utah on Tuesday and urged all its affiliated crafts and members to support the project.

"It will set up an industry like the Test Site that this state needs," said Secretary-Treasurer Robert Harrison. "It will diversify our economy."

The Southern Nevada Building Trades Council encompasses all 22 construction-related unions in Southern Nevada. It represents about 8,000 union members, Harrison said.

The Department of De-

fense has proposed constructing the \$30 billion missile system in southcentral Nevada and western Utah. The proposed system will have 200 missiles that will be shuttled between 4,600 permanent launch sites.

The system will cover 10,000 square miles. But only 25 square miles, the 2½ acres around each launch site, would be off-limits to the public.

The Air Force estimates that the project will generate 25,000 jobs with a payroll of about \$500 million.

The council, which was briefed on the project by the Air Force, estimates it

will provide about 6,000 construction jobs.

"We're looking at work for people," Harrison said. "This project will basically effect the entire state."

Harrison said the Northern Nevada Building Trades Council also supports building the MX missile system in Nevada and Utah.

Both U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., and Rep. James Santini, D-Nev., have expressed reservations about locating the MX missile system in Nevada because they say it would make the state more of a target in case of nuclear attack.

Harrison doubts the MX

missile project would make Nevada more of a target.

Harrison maintained that Nellis Air Force Base, Boulder Dam and the Test Site already make Nevada a target state.

"Is there a move afoot to close (those) facilities in the name of defense?" Harrison asked.

The union leader added that most states house some sort of military or strategic installation and that any state could be considered a target state.

"The point is every area in the U.S. has an important and vital part in the operation of America and can be listed as a prime target of enemy attack," he said.

The council urged all construction workers and their families to write their senators and congressmen asking them to support building the MX missile system in Nevada.

RJ-9-5-79

Long Range Defense Strategy

Carter Discusses MX Base Plan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter met Wednesday with the National Security Council to discuss "long range strategic defense" matters, apparently including a decision on basing of the MX missile with Southern Nevada considered as a possible deployment site.

A White House official said Carter confirmed at the 90-minute afternoon meeting he had approved a recommendation of his top diplomatic and defense advisers on U.S. policy toward Soviet troops in Cuba.

The official said national security affairs adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski had summarized the recommendation.

The advisers, sources said, had suggested the president await a reply from the Soviets to U.S. protests before deciding on action over the recently discovered 2,000-3,000 Soviet combat troops in Cuba.

The White House official said the council meeting had been

scheduled for some weeks. There were strong indications the main focus of the meeting was on how to make new U.S. land-based strategic missiles relatively invulnerable to Soviet attack.

The decision was expected to be announced, probably on Friday. Carter had postponed the decision until after the signing of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty at the Vienna summit.

Carter has been under some congressional pressure to adopt the "shell game" under which strategic missiles would be shuttled around to various launch sites, keeping the Soviets in doubt as to their exact location.

Another recommendation was that they could be based on rails traveling through a 20-mile underground trench, or launched from transport aircraft.

Among those attending the council meeting were CIA Director Stansfield Turner; Brzezinski; deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and budget director James McIntyre.

SUN-9-6-79

MX May Put Sun Studies In Nevada

By GARY THOMPSON
SUN Business Writer

Nevada and Utah may become the center of major new solar energy research efforts after President Carter announces approval of a "racetrack" basing system for the MX missile Friday, top administration sources disclosed to the SUN.

Carter's decision on the MX missile basing mode — which White House sources said will be revealed at a press conference in Washington Friday — is expected to include a provision for large-scale solar energy research.

Under the plan, \$2.4 billion will be spent on research and development of alternate energy sources as part of the MX project, sources said. Solar, wind and geothermal energy will receive special attention in the massive effort by government agencies and private industry to develop alternatives to fossil fuels.

Such alternate energy sources will be used to supply power to MX support facilities, including housing, control and security areas, and communications. The research, which will pump large amounts of federal funds into the economies of both states, is also expected to result in major advances in nonmilitary solar energy technology.

As part of his plan to make the U.S. independent of unreliable foreign oil and natural gas suppliers, Carter has proposed establishing an Energy Security Corp. with \$88 billion in funding authority and a wide amount of flexibility to provide the incentives needed to encourage private industry to develop synthetic fuels.

SUN- 9-7-79

MX Missiles May Bring Solar Studies To Nevada

(Continued From Page 1)

Development of the MX missile system itself will have a major impact on the economies of the states in which it is located. Although Carter isn't expected to pinpoint the system's location Friday, Nevada and Utah are known to be the top choices of Pentagon planners.

Construction costs alone are expected to total \$9 billion in 1978 dollars, while operating costs for the system should run \$440 million annually once the facilities are completed. Pentagon officials have said the economic growth factor that measures the impact of all supporting services indicates \$1.3 billion

would be added to the economies of Nevada and Utah each year.

The new system was approved by Carter at a meeting this week with members of the National Security Council.

White House Press Secretary Jody Powell told reporters late Thursday that he knows "of no last-minute hitch" that would cause a postponement of the decision announcement Friday. And administration sources told the SUN it is unlikely Carter will delay the announcement because of his desire to silence congressional critics angered over the presence of Soviet combat troops in

Cuba.

The racetrack system was considered along with other options, which included moving the missiles on rails traveling through a 20-mile underground trench, or launching them from transport aircraft.

Under the chosen system, oval or circular roadways arranged in closed loops similar to a racetrack would be used with shelters for 200 MX missiles. There would be 23 spur roads leading to 4,600 hardened shelters that cover about 2.5 acres each.

The missiles would be shuttled from shelter to shelter by a huge mobile

transporter to hide their locations from the Soviets.

Each missile would be assembled in an open area in full view of Soviet reconnaissance satellites. Then they would be towed by the giant transporters around the "racetracks" and hidden in some of the shelters.

Since the missile would be covered by a shield during its trip around the "racetrack," Russian spy satellites couldn't pinpoint in which shelters the missiles were located, although the Soviets would know exactly how many MX missiles the United States places.

The Soviets have objected to this

basing mode in conversations with U.S. negotiators, saying they didn't see how they would be able to verify U.S. compliance with the terms of the SALT II treaty.

Carter also is expected to make a decision shortly on increasing defense spending to meet objections of Senate critics who have conditioned approval of SALT II on a hefty boost in Pentagon spending.

There were indications Carter might soon send Congress a supplemental request for \$4 billion in additional military appropriations, UPI reported Thursday.

Sun 9.7.1979

By Eric Ruff
R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Carter announced Friday he has decided to deploy the \$33 billion MX missile system on "racetrack" courses in Nevada and Utah desert areas, a move that drew mixed reactions from western lawmakers.

Carter told reporters at a White House news conference he chose to deploy the system in the two states because they stood a good chance of surviving a Russian surprise attack.

"I have decided that the MX will be based in shelters on roadways, not more than 25 miles in the western desert," Carter said.

"This system will enhance our security," he said. "It is not a bargaining chip. I am confident that the American people will support it."

Support for the decision came immediately from Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., who said the MX system would have a "tremendously important economic impact on the state, particularly in the central and eastern areas, which need it most."

Carter's decision to deploy the missile system also was supported by Cannon's two colleagues from Utah, Sens. Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch. Garn, however, said the decision was political and issued in an effort to gain support for the SALT II treaty.

Unlike Cannon, the two Utah senators withheld total support for the "racetrack" deployment mode. Hatch has previously shown support for missile silos. Neither Hatch nor Garn raised objections about the decision to establish part of the MX system in Utah.

Sen. Paul Laxalt, D-Nev., who was in the state when Carter's decision was announced, said in a prepared statement he had "grave reservations" about deploying the MX in Nevada.

Laxalt, who is up for re-election in 1980, said, "The president's announcement appears to be about what we expected, but I want to see the full particulars before commenting further."

Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., was not reluctant to comment, however.

"I still say it's too much for one state to bear," he said. "We already have nuclear testing and storage. Some other western states should share the drawbacks and benefits from MX."

Santini, with his usual flair for expression, added, "We stand to lose our identity as the Silver State and become the Nuclear Weapons State."

Carter told reporters he had analyzed the overall program and said the "racetrack" mode and its location in Nevada and Utah met all the criteria for building a missile system.

He said the criteria were survivability, verifiability, minimal environmental impact, reasonable cost and being consistent with the goals of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

The president said that if the SALT II treaty is ratified and the SALT III negotiations are successful, "this may be the last system of enormous destructive power we may ever have to build."

The system will take out of public use about 25 square miles of desert area and will contain 4,600 shelters in all. For the Russians to attack the system, they would have to target all 4,600 shelters because they would never know for certain where any missile was.

To comply with verification agreements, the 200 missiles will be assembled in daylight and out in the open. The missiles will be moved around the racetracks by huge transporters, too massive for travel on regular public roads.

Each shelter will be constructed with viewing ports that can be opened to demonstrate to the Russians that there are only 200 missiles in the entire system.

25
9.7. 1979

MX 'racetrack' system okayed



DETAILS MX MISSILE PLAN — President Carter faces reporters Friday in Washington where he announced plans for a \$33 billion deployment of 200 MX mobile missiles around

protected "racetrack" courses in the West. The graphic at right depicts how the missiles would move about underground in tunnels. AP photo

Business, labor leaders pleased

By Jerome M. Hall
R-J Staff Writer

Nevada labor and business leaders were enthusiastic Friday when President Carter announced the MX missile system will be built in Nevada and Utah. But elected officials took a more cautious stance.

"We're about to shed tears, we're so happy," said Betty Whitehurst, manager of the Ely Chamber of Commerce. "We're hoping the main base will be near Ely."

"I honestly feel this will help diversify our state's economy," said Bob Harrison, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Nevada Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

The MX missile system will be a bigger construction project than the Alaskan pipeline. Harrison estimates it will provide 6,000 construction jobs.

The Air Force estimates the \$33 billion project will create 25,000 jobs with a payroll of \$500 million.

"As far as the chamber's concerned, we endorse the concept of the MX missile system in Nevada and Utah," said Berlyn Miller, president of the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

"The development is vital to the national defense of this country, particularly in reference to the SALT II agreement," Miller said.

Elected officials, however, took a somewhat different approach towards Carter's announcement. Las Vegas Mayor Bill Briare said the split among Nevada's congressional delegation over the project causes him great concern.

"There seems to be a difference of opinion in our congressional delegation. That bothers me and makes me reluctant to take a firm position," he said.

Sen. Paul Laxalt and Rep. Jim Santini have voiced reservations about the defense project, while Sen. Howard Cannon has announced he supports it.

"I would lean toward the construction of this type of facility in Nevada at a time when it's determined there will be no great danger to human beings," the mayor said.

Clark County Commissioner Thalia Dondero said she fears the MX missile system will make Nevada more of a target in the event of nuclear war. She also asked if too much land was being withdrawn from the public domain for the missile system.

Dondero admitted that the \$33 billion project will help Nevada's economy and especially will provide a shot in the arm to the economies of small towns such as Pioche and Ely.

Gov. Robert List has supported the racetrack system, which was backed by Carter on Friday, said state Planning Coordinator Bob Hill.

But before he takes a firm stand on the project, List wants to conduct a series of public hearings throughout the state and see what the citizens want, Hill said.

"The big carrot," Hill said, "is the tremendous economic benefits that will come from the deployment."

In an informal series of public hearings conducted earlier this year, most residents of Eastern Nevada expressed support for the MX missile project, Hill said.

A newspaper poll conducted in Ely showed 73 percent of the people backed the MX project, said Chamber of Commerce manager Betty Whitehurst. However, only 102 of 1,800 ballots were returned, she said.

It's Official: MX Missile In Nevada

Copley News Service

WASHINGTON—President Carter announced Friday the nation's coming new \$33 billion force of 200 MX intercontinental missiles will be based at solar-powered, racetrack-like courses to be constructed in the Utah and Nevada deserts.

Declaring it may be the "last weapon system of such enormous destructive power we will ever have to build," the president said he was acting because of the growing threat of more accurate Soviet missiles.

"I have carefully studied the potential threat...," he told newsmen. "That threat is real. The (new) system...does the best job of meeting that threat."

Mr. Carter's selection of the racetrack deployment mode

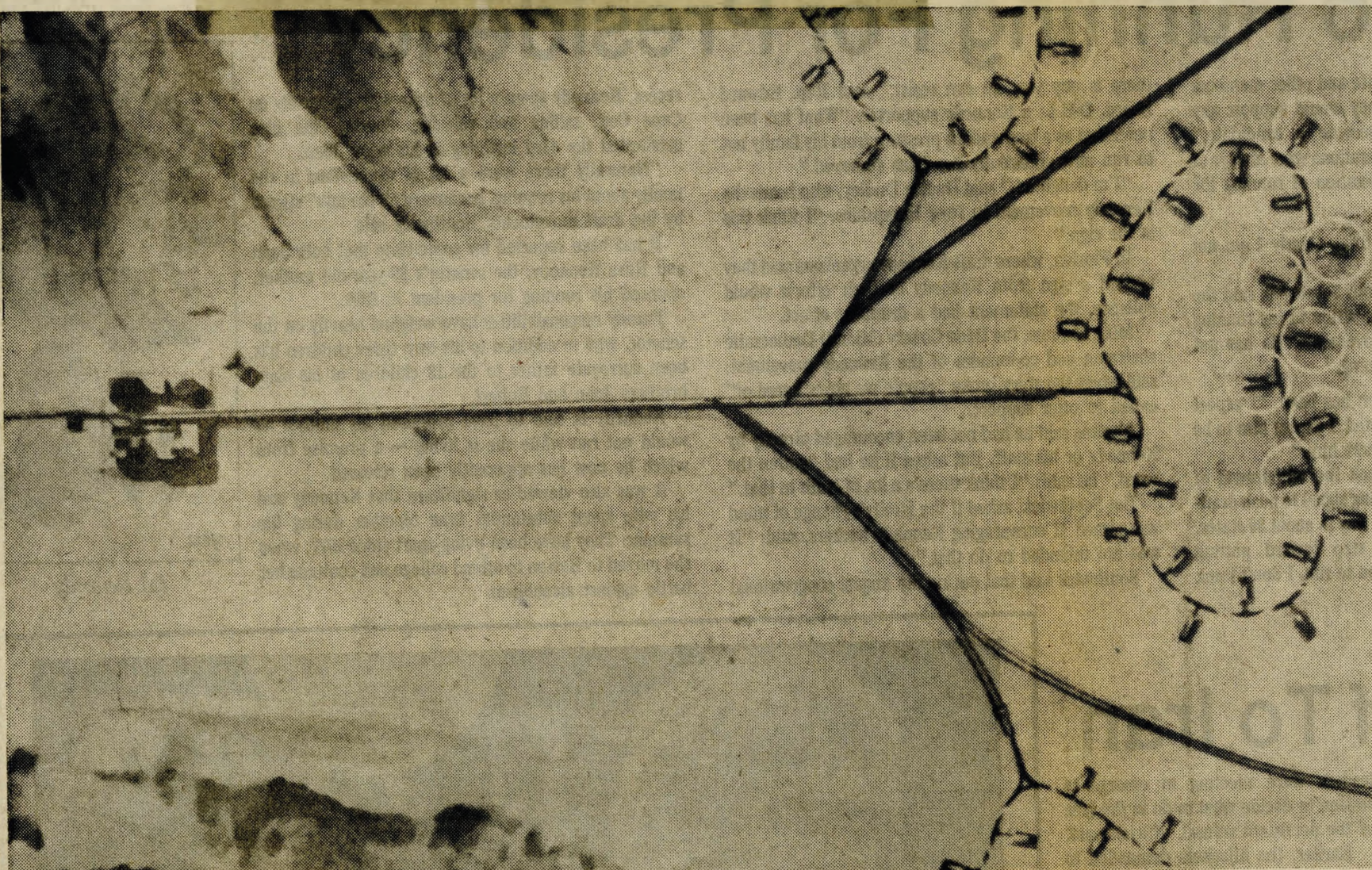
was a necessary follow-on to his decision last June to build and deploy the MX — a nuclear-topped, 10 warhead rocket with more than twice the wallop of the Minuteman missile the present mainstay of the U.S. land-based ICBM force.

It is those fixed, silo-based rockets that are expected to be vulnerable to the more numerous and increasingly accurate Soviet warheads in the early 1980s. To off-set that danger, MX will be deployed in a manner intended to make it impossible for Moscow to wipe out U.S. land based missiles.

It will be placed in 40 complexes of 5 missiles each with each missile assigned to a separate, 15-mile circumference looped

(Please See CARTER, Page 4)

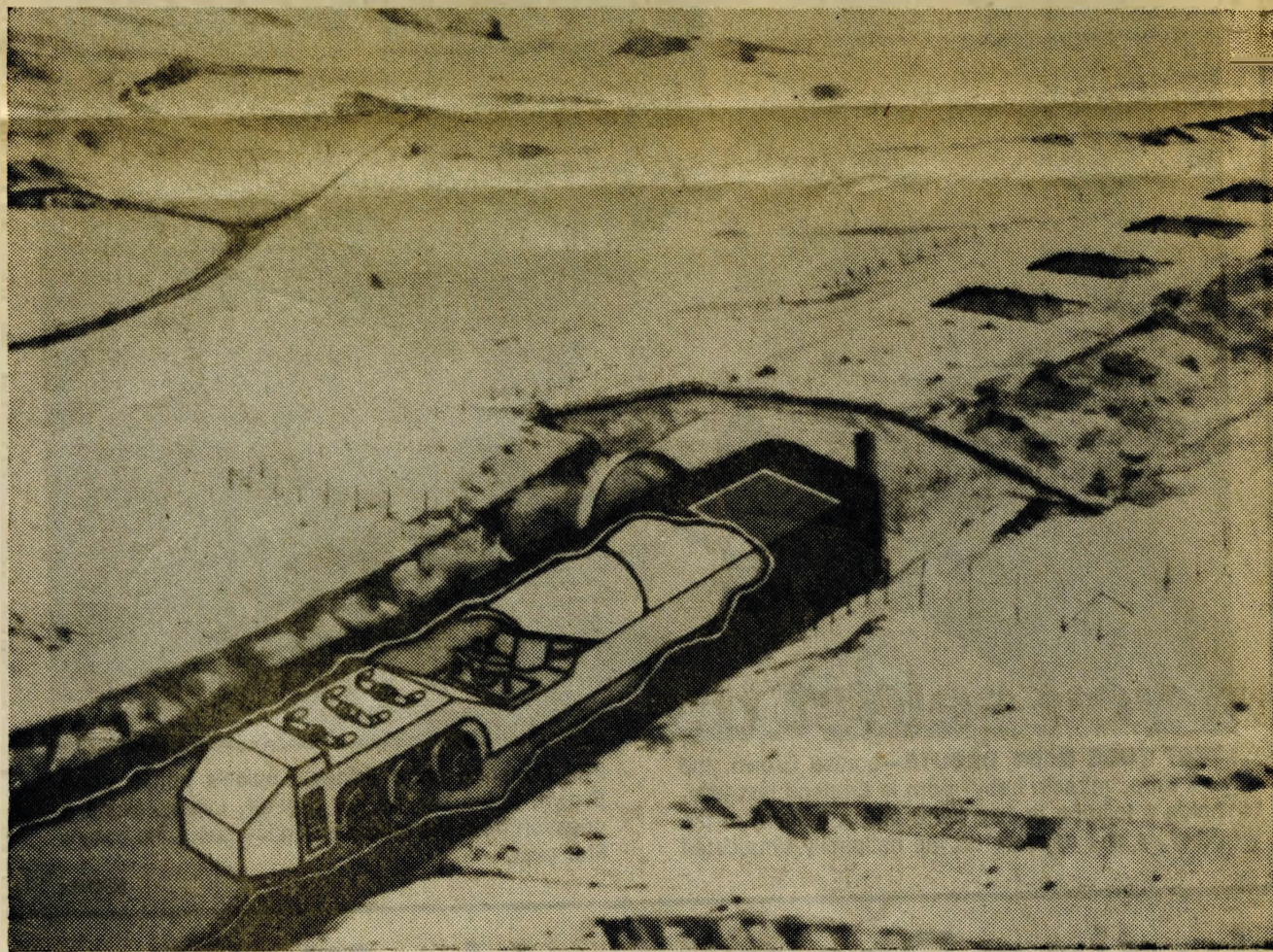
SUN - 9-8-79



MX MISSILE SITE PLAN — These two drawings are artist's concepts of what the horizontal basing mode for the MX missile system will look like. The sites are scheduled to be built in East-Central Nevada and West-Central Utah. Above, the building at left is an assembly area for the missiles, which will be

moved to the closed loops to hardened shelters at right. Below, a transporter-erector (TEL) road vehicle is shown in a hardened shelter for the MX missile, which is being developed by the U.S. Air Force. There will be a total of 4,600 shelters for 200 missiles.

UPI Photos



Carter Selects Racetrack System

(Continued From Page 1)

track containing 23 attached ground-level shelters — each a mile apart — in which the weapon can be hidden.

Each missile will be on its own dual-powered Transport-Erector-Launcher. A mobile shield vehicle will be able to move the missile to any of the shelters within 30 minutes, even after nuclear attack begins.

The Soviets would have no way of knowing which shelter contained the missile. To attack it a warhead would have to be aimed at all 23 shelters.

To attack the entire 200 missile MX force all 4,600 shelters would have to be targeted — far more warheads than Moscow could afford to commit without leaving itself vulnerable to strikes from remaining U.S. missiles, submarine launched missiles or cruise missiles launched from B-52 bombers.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, who briefed newsmen after Mr. Carter spoke confirmed the MX complexes would be

built in Utah and Nevada, and his chief of research and development, Dr. William Perry, later said the Great Basin area of southeastern Nevada and western Utah was the most likely site.

It was Perry also who disclosed that solar energy would be used to power each site to avoid the need to drain power from other sources. "It will be a pilot project for solar power," he said.

The new basing mode and the decision to deploy only 200 MX missiles are carefully keyed to the limits both the United States and Soviet Union accepted in the proposed SALT II — for strategic arms limitation — treaty now before the Senate for ratification.

Each initially will be held to 2,400 strategic nuclear launch vehicles with no more than 1,320 permitted to have multiple warheads. It is these constraints that would make it unadvisable for Moscow to assign too many of its permitted warheads to MX targets alone.

State Leaders Show Conflict Over MX Plan

CARSON CITY (UPI) — Nevada officials showed both strong support and opposition Friday to the announcement the MX missile system would be based partly in Nevada.

Gov. Robert List said he "generally approves it," but will withhold final judgment until hearings are held around the state to gather opinions of Nevadans.

List said the missile project would boost the economy of Eastern Nevada. Most residents of the Ely area earlier gave qualified approval during hearings at which the project was explained by military officials.

"I still say it's too much for one state to bear," said Democratic Rep. James Santini. "We already have nuclear testing and storage. Some of our other western states should share some of the drawbacks and benefits of MX."

"Nevadans are willing to do their share, but in this case we are carrying the load. We stand to lose our identity as the Silver State and become the Nuclear Weapons State. I don't want Nevada to become the nation's nuclear playground."

"I also wonder if the MX will be outdated by the time it's completed in 1989. Further, I'm concerned about the amount of land and water such a system might grab from our state. Finally, I have yet to be assured that the safety of Nevadans is protected."

Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., said he could not comment until he has seen the full statement from the president "but it sounds pretty much like what we expected."

Laxalt has said he has "grave reservations" about locating the system in Nevada. He said such a defense system possibly could be located on Pacific islands so that Nevada would not become a "nuclear bulls-eye."

Democratic Sen. Howard Cannon has been in favor of the project. He said the state would not be any more of a nuclear target than now.

Governor Supports Missile System

Utah Senator Blasts MX

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — A state senator says she can't believe Gov. Scott Matheson would support deployment of the MX missile system on 200 giant, paved "racetracks" spread across the deserts of Utah and Nevada.

Sen. Frances Farley, D-Salt Lake, said Friday she thinks most Utahans would have "serious concerns" about the MX missile system if they understood how much land and money will be involved in its construction.

"I think its moving along faster than information about it is getting to the public," said the senator, who was briefed on the MX by aerospace officials. "Most people don't understand the magnitude of the project — the amount of land involved and the fact inflation will push the cost up to \$56 billion."

Farley said each of the racetracks would be approximately 35 miles in circumference, which means if they were stretched out end to end they could form a highway that crossed the nation twice.

"Imagine most of the state of Nevada and much of Utah covered by these super highways that go nowhere. I can't believe that Gov. Matheson is supporting it."

She also said the governor and others should be worried the deployment plan would make the state the prime target in the event of a nuclear war.

Matheson has said several times he supports deployment of the MX in Utah because it is needed as a deterrent weapon and because of the economic benefits it will bring to the state.

President Carter announced the deployment plan Friday. He said the system will cost \$33 billion in 1980 dollars, but won't be fully operational until 1989.

While Farley was critical of the project, one of Matheson's top aides, Kent Briggs, said, "We're excited about having the MX in Utah. This means an incredible public investment in the state."

Briggs, state planning coordinator, said the MX would literally pump billions of dollars into the economy of the region and, as an added benefit, make Utah and Nevada leaders in the development of geothermal and solar power.

"We are talking about a construction project two and a half times the size of the Alaska pipeline," said Briggs. "It will create 14,000 construction jobs."

"And I have just been informed that the project will be energized by solar and geothermal power. This means a huge investment in the development of a clean energy resource."

Briggs also said the first and third stages of the MX missile will be built at aerospace plants operated by Thiokol Corp. and Hercules in Utah.

Generals Hope 'Racetrack' Will Confuse Soviet Attack

WASHINGTON (UPI) — America's generals hope the Soviets have as tough a time finding the missiles in the new MX "racetrack" system as bettors have picking a winner at Jai-Lai.

The aim of the \$33 billion mobile missile system is to outwit the powerful Soviet nuclear arsenal of the 1980s by keeping the Kremlin from pinpointing America's H-bombs.

Under the basing system, the 200 MX missiles will be shuttled on locomotive-sized transporters among 4,600 shelters located around circular roadways or "racetracks."

It may sound simple, but there's nothing simple about it.

First, the United States must assure the Soviets the MX system isn't hiding missiles in excess of the number permitted under the new SALT agreement.

To accomplish that, the 190,000-pound missiles will be assembled in the open so Soviet spy satellites can count each one and see it loaded on a 700,000-pound transporter.

Once a missile is loaded, a metal shield will be placed over it. But the shield contains viewing ports that can be opened in case of a Soviet challenge.

The transporter, which is too large to travel on public roads, then moves onto one of 200 circular "racetracks" to be built in the deserts of Nevada and Utah. Each "racetrack" has spur roads leading to 23 hardened shelters.

The MX transporter then moves around the 15-mile "racetrack" at speeds of up to 30 miles an hour, but leaves again and again to go down the spur roads to each of the shelters.

JUN - 9-9-79

Laxalt expresses doubts about MX in Nevada

By Dale Pugh
R-J Staff Writer

FALLON — Sen. Paul Laxalt supported the development of the MX missile system Saturday, but expressed reservations about its location in Nevada.

Laxalt, addressing the Nevada League of Cities conference, said the missile system could have possibly been located outside the continental United States.

"I hope the Carter Administration will pursue the MX," Laxalt said. "My only concern is where it should be based."

The economic benefits are clear, he said. "It will result in lots of money to someone."

Even though development of the MX system in Nevada could possibly increase the job market and boost the economy, Laxalt said he would not base his opinions on those possibilities.

Laxalt said he is more concerned about the amounts of land necessary to support the system and the psychological fears of state residents.

"I'm concerned about how much of the state will be taken," he said. "It could tear the guts out of central Nevada."

The areas being considered for missile site development have other potential uses, the senator said.

The federal government is pressing for allocations of Alaskan and Canadian water for agricultural uses in the southwest United States, he said.

"We're looking 25 to 50 years down the road," he said. "But we don't want to find we have the capabilities for water and find the land locked up."

Laxalt also said he is taking into consideration the psychological impact the MX missile will have on Nevada residents.

"They will have the feeling of a potential bullseye," he said. "People of the state will be mighty nervous if there is a possible nuclear confrontation."

The senator said he must study these and other aspects before he makes a final decision about placing the missile systems in Nevada. He said he has no objections to the system design.

"Let's examine every alternative," he said. "No other policy decision will have such a long-range effect."

Laxalt will have further input on the MX system when it comes before the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which he is a member.

The senator questioned the intentions behind President Carter's approval of the MX missile system.

Carter's approval was probably politically motivated, he said. "Maybe he went with the MX because he needed conservative votes on SALT."

Most conservative senators support the MX as the only counterforce to the Soviet's SS-18 missile currently under development and capable of carrying 10 re-entry warheads, he said.

Sufficient votes exist in the Senate to ratify the SALT treaty, Laxalt said.

That situation exists because the public has expressed little interest in the SALT treaty, he said.

"With no public interest, most senators will voice 'aye,' with the feeling some treaty is better than none."

However, he said, the recent discovery of Soviet troops in Cuba may bring about more public interest in SALT.

"The American people are going to insist on knowing what kind of people they are dealing with," he said.

Laxalt called the intervention of Soviet troops into Cuba direct defiance to all policy since the Cuban missile crisis.

The Russian activity in Cuba is clear indication the powers expect to dominate Panama, he said. "The day the Panama Canal is turned over to Panama, it will go to Castro and to Russia," he said.

R J - 9-9-79

General dismisses fears about MX sites in Nevada

FALLON — Construction of MX missile sites in Nevada would not require use of large amounts of public land, Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker Jr. said Saturday in response to a speech by Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev.

Reservations about the construction of MX missile sites in Nevada expressed by Laxalt were discounted by Hecker.

The general addressed the Nevada League of Cities conference during a panel discussion concerning the effects of the MX missile on Nevada's natural resources. That discussion followed Laxalt's speech.

Hecker was joined on the panel by

Roland Westergard, state director of conservation and natural resources, and Ernest Gregory, state director of the environmental protection division.

The 200 MX missile sites will only exclude 25 square miles from the public domain, Hecker said. That includes 4,600 two-and-a-half acre fenced sites, from which a missile might be launched, he said.

Farming, ranching and mining can take place up to the fences of those enclosures, he said. The federal government would replace any loss of farming or grazinglands.

Mineral studies will be conducted

prior to the location of MX sites, he added. If valuable minerals are found, the potential site could be relocated.

To assure these rules are followed, they should be written in the form of federal regulations, he told the convention.

Hecker also discounted Laxalt's contention that residents living near MX sites would feel like potential Soviet targets.

"People in Las Vegas aren't afraid, and they live near a major Air Force base," he said.

Laxalt's suggestion that MX sites
(Continued on Page 4A)

R J - 9 - 9 - 7 9

General dismisses fears about MX sites

(From Page 1A)

could be located in other countries is impractical, the general said.

Foreign MX sites would not act as deterrents to Soviet attack, he said. An attack on foreign MX sites could not be considered an attack on the United States and would leave officials in a dilemma as how to respond, he said.

Although Hecker maintained there would be little environmental impact from MX missile sites, Westergard and Gregory said many questions still need to be answered.

Foremost of their concerns was water, its availability and uses.

"Water supplies are limited. We don't know how much is needed and how it will be returned," Gregory said.

"We're going to have to know the quantities involved and where we intend to get them," Westergard said. Westergard also said studies need to be conducted to determine the effect

of missile sites on surface runoff and ground water. Gregory said MX missile site development could slow down mining activities in Nevada. Missile sites are planned for construction in valleys where most mining is done, he said. Only one or the other might be permitted in each valley. Construction of the sites also would scar the desert, creating blowing dust and degrading air quality, the state official said.

Hecker assured them these issues would be studied prior to any MX construction.

Numerous public hearings will be held before any sites are selected, Hecker added.

Gregory expressed fear rocket fuel and nuclear waste from missile sites will only compound disposal problems. However, Hecker said after the panel discussion that the missile system would produce no waste. The development of the MX system is not only an important defense mechanism, but will also create thousands of jobs and pump billions of dollars into the economy, Hecker added.

The MX project will cost an estimated \$10 billion, which will be spent over a seven-year period. Some 12,000 jobs are expected to be created by the project. Another offshoot of the project will be the development of solar energy, which will be used largely to power the sites, he said.

Electricity provided through solar means currently costs between \$20 to \$30 a kilowatt, he said.

Hecker was confident experimentation at the sites could reduce costs to about a dollar a kilowatt.

"It might break the hammerlock of OPEC," he said.

The use of solar energy at the sites could make the states in which they are built major solar experimentation centers, he said.

25 9.9.1979

Laxalt Proposes Using SALT To Force Soviets From Cuba

The United States should use the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) as a lever to force Russia to move their troops out of Cuba, Sen. Paul Laxalt advised Saturday.

"The presence of several thousand Russian troops in Cuba is a highly disturbing development and is the first sign of Soviet intrigue in the Western Hemisphere," the Nevada Republican warned.

Laxalt, interviewed on Channel 13's "Probe" by a panel of Las Vegas newsmen, also took issue with the lack of intelligence data showing the Russians had amassed the troop strength which is estimated at some 3,000 soldiers.

"I cannot believe the Central Intelligence Agency has been so ineffective. I am going to make certain we reinforce the CIA with the powers it had before."

He said the U.S. can put economic pressures on Russia to withdraw their troops including reduction of grain shipments. "There are a lot of areas where we can exert pressure."

On other points, Laxalt said the need for construction of the MX Missile program is "absolutely essential because by the mid-1980s, the Russians will achieve a missile superiority to knock out our ICBMs."

The only question he had, the senator said, was where it

should be based noting that the basic mode, whatever it will be, will be terribly important to Nevada.

"I have questions on whether it should be placed in our own backyard and as far as the economic impact, the bulk of the money spent on the MX site will go to out-of-state contractors."

On politics, he justified the reported \$500,000 campaign fund of his own, which, he noted, he hadn't received yet.

Laxalt is up for re-election in 1980 and he said the \$500,000 will do much for campaign preparation despite the fact he faces no opposition at present.

"I plan to stay roughly at half a million if there is no substantial opposition and any unspent funds will be held over for future campaigns."

He strongly supported Ronald Reagan as the strongest candidate for the presidential race stating that "President Carter is going to have a difficult time rehabilitating himself. I wouldn't be surprised to see Carter turned out (as a candidate) by the first of the year or at least by the first primary," Laxalt commented.

He predicted that circumstances would dictate Sen. Edward Kennedy being the Democratic nominee.

RJ-9-10-79

Santini Tries To Trim MX In Nevada

By GARY THOMPSON
SUN Business Writer

An amendment to curtail planned MX missile deployment in Nevada will be introduced in Congress Wednesday by Rep. James Santini, D-Nev.

The amendment will require a complete cutoff of funding for the MX system if more than 25 percent of the total number of launch sites are located in one state, the congressman's administrative assistant confirmed late Tuesday.

Santini, who spent most of Tuesday sequestered with his aides in Washington drafting a final version of the amendment, declined to speak to the SUN about the measure, asserting he was en route to a meeting.

But his aide, John Brodeur, said Santini plans to introduce the amendment to the Defense Department Authorization Bill in the House of Representatives Wednesday morning.

Brodeur said the amendment "would reduce by half the number of MX missiles in Nevada," adding that current Pentagon plans call for locating 70 percent of the system in this state.

The actual reduction, however, would be substantially greater, as the system calls for 200 missiles to be shuttled among 4,600 launch sites spread across Nevada and Utah.

If the 70 percent figure is accurate, 3,220 launch sites and 140 missiles would be located in Nevada. A 50 percent reduction would allow 1,610 launch sites and 70 missiles.

Santini's amendment, however, would limit deployment to 1,150 launch sites and 50 missiles, or a 64 percent reduction from the current proposal.

Brodeur emphasized that Santini (Please See SANTINI, Page 4)

Santini Tries To Trim MX In Nevada

(Continued From Page 1)

isn't opposed to partial deployment of the nation's next generation of multi-warhead nuclear missiles in this state, but said the Nevada Democrat "has several reservations" about locating 70 percent of the system here.

"The basic problem — in addition to the question of whether Nevada would become a nuclear bull's-eye for Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles — is the burden the current plan places on Nevada's citizens," Brodeur said.

"The proposed launch site locations cut across Nevada's heartland, and the spectre of 140 nuclear missiles sitting in the Nevada desert isn't very appealing.

"This amendment would force the Pentagon to ask other states to share the burden and benefits of the MX system."

Pentagon sources contacted by the SUN said the amendment would increase construction and land acquisition costs, quadruple operating costs and make Soviet verification of U.S. compliance with the SALT II treaty that permits MX development more difficult.

"We want to see that data," Brodeur commented about the cost estimates. "We think it's amazing the Pentagon can come up with figures in less than five hours that never existed before.

"We believe that Nevada and Utah were chosen for politically expedient reasons. After all, there's a lot of federal land in both states, but we still think it's feasible to operate the system efficiently and effectively in other states.

"As far as verification is concerned,

we contend that if the Soviets can verify in Nevada, they can verify in any other state. We think that's one of the most ridiculous arguments the Pentagon can make against this amendment."

Pentagon officials also have asserted that the "dirty" nature of Soviet nuclear weapons negates the "nuclear bull's-eye" argument used by MX opponents. A Russian missile hitting Los Angeles, they have said, would spread a wide swath of deadly radiation east of the city into Nevada.

"We're not questioning the number of lives that would be lost in an attack," Brodeur said, "we're questioning the placement of the system.

"And we don't really know they'll blow up Los Angeles. They may simply try to debilitate the MX system, which

will be the No. 1 strategic weapon in the U.S. arsenal."

Brodeur said a recent poll revealing that 63 percent of Nevadans surveyed in mid-July favored location of the MX system in this state — 25 percent were opposed — may soon be outdated.

"As more and more information about the MX is developed, we believe the people of Nevada will reconsider just what it can and can't do for the state."

Brodeur said there is "absolutely no correlation between the congressman's sincere opposition to dumping 70 percent of the MX system in Nevada" and the possibility Santini may be considering a Senate race.

"As it stands right now," Brodeur said, "he plans to run for re-election to the House."

JUN - 9 - 12 - 79

MX No Longer SALT Pact Threat

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The top American arms negotiator told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Wednesday the Soviets appear to have accepted U.S. assurances the MX missile system will not violate the SALT pact.

Sen. Richard Stone, D-Fla., indicated he still had grave doubts.

He warned U.S. Ambassador Ralph Earle, the chief SALT II negotiator, that determined So-

viet objections might scuttle the pact and dampen Congress' enthusiasm to appropriate \$33 billion to build the MX system.

"We don't like to substitute ambiguity at the moment for objections later on," he said.

The panel is continuing its SALT hearings despite the crisis over the Soviet brigade in Cuba. Hopes the committee might pass on the treaty by Sept. 25 are slipping, committee sources said.

Earle acknowledged Soviet negotiator Vladimir Semyonov, Defense Minister Dmitry Ustinov and President Leonid Brezhnev all raised objections about the manner in which 200 MX missiles might be deployed in the United States.

He said Ustinov had made objections "similar" to those contained in a leaked transcript of a June 17 meeting in Vienna between Defense Secretary Harold Brown and his Soviet

counterpart.

But he insisted deployment of the mobile MX on "racetracks" in Utah and Nevada was consistent with SALT.

"I can assure you it is permissible," he told Stone.

He noted, too, Brezhnev appeared to have accepted U.S. assurances that MX would be compatible with SALT because the Soviet president signed the treaty with President Carter.

Stone remained dissatisfied.

"The Soviets won't object?" he asked.

"I don't know," Earle said. "If they raise questions, we are quite prepared to discuss them in the Standing Consultative Commission." The SCC is a permanent U.S.-Soviet body for resolving complaints.

JUN. 9-13-79

Santini Lambasts MX Reduction Defeat

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rep. James Santini, D-Nev., said the 289-84 House defeat of his amendment to reduce the MX missile shelters in Nevada will not

SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 7

discourage him from further pressing Air Force officials for more information.

"I don't care if the final vote was 434-1," he said. "Vital and basic questions on the impact of this massive system in Nevada must be addressed."

Santini's amendment would have not allowed funding for the MX if more than 25 percent of the shelters were based on one state. Air Force officials plan to place 70 percent of the 4,600 shelters in Nevada with the rest in Utah.

"Although many members of the House support the concept of the MX as a national defense weapon, apparently they just don't want it in their district," said Santini. "They realize the allure of economic benefits carries with it some substantial disadvantages."

"It is impossible to predict accurately the socio-economic and military impact on our state," said Santini. "For example, where would we get the water and housing to put up an estimated 22,000 workers on a temporary basis in Nevada's rural area?"

He also said between 8,000 and 10,000 square miles through "the heartland of Nevada" could be affected in the placement of the 3,220 missile shelters.

"Some valuable information surfaced because of this information and for that reason I am satisfied. But this is just Round 1."

JUN. 9-14-79

Soviets say MX 'unacceptable'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Soviet Defense Minister Dmitry Ustinov has complained directly to Defense Secretary Harold Brown that the planned deployments of the MX missile "are unacceptable and we cannot agree to them."

Ustinov made the complaint to Brown at the Vienna summit June 17 when U.S. and Soviet officials met to discuss military aspects of the Soviet-American relationship, and a partial transcript was given to a few reporters Wednesday.

Dr. William Perry, the Pentagon's chief officer for research and development, meanwhile, was testifying Wednesday about the MX deployment in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's hearings on SALT II.

Administration officials, puzzled by the leaking of the partial transcript, said its contents appeared accurate. But they made these points:

—For weeks before the Vienna summit, Soviet representatives complained about basing modes being contemplated for the MX missile system. But Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev signed the

pact anyway, indicating the Russians do not really consider the MX or its basing an obstacle to SALT.

—The Soviets are to be expected to complain about any new U.S. weapons program.

—Ustinov's complaint appears based on an incomplete understanding of the basing mode which President Carter finally approved last Friday.

According to the transcript, Ustinov told Brown:

"Recently, discussion has been going on in the speeches of military leaders and in the U.S. press of the basing mode of your ICBMs, saying that as many as 40 launchers, will be deployed for each individual ICBM — that is, MX launcher.

"I would like to hear your explanation of these reports of various basing modes such as tunnels and multiple ICBM launchers and the possibility of verification by national technical means. I must, however, tell you that we cannot agree with such ICBM launcher deployments."

Brown, according to the transcript, sought to reassure Ustinov

the United States was not planning to build 20, 30 or 40 launchers for each MX missile. Rather, he explained, one giant 750,000-pound transporter was planned for each MX missile which would shuttle between 20 and 30 hardened shelters.

"The schemes we have in mind are similar to present SLBM (submarine-launched missiles) launcher deployments and would allow the numbers to be known. There are other methods, but we will avoid them because of verification," Brown said.

Ustinov, however, was not satisfied, and insisted the deployment plans he had read about were "inconsistent with the (SALT) treaty."

"I am sorry," said Ustinov. "That is not an answer. You and I have been speaking of different things. Such deployments are unacceptable and we cannot agree to them."

Then, Ustinov added more cordially:

"But we did get to know each other better. Later on, things should go more smoothly."

RJ-9-12-79

Pentagon rallies opposition against Santini's MX plan

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The "full force of the Pentagon" has been marshaled, according to a congressional source, against a proposal which would limit the number of MX missile sites constructed in Nevada or any other single state.

Only a few hours after Nevada Rep. Jim Santini revealed he would offer an amendment Wednesday that would restrict the construction of the shelters in a single state to 25 percent of the total planned for the system, he had been contacted by both the secretary of the Air Force and his undersecretary.

And, according to a Santini aide, the Air Force has "suddenly come up with a whole array of figures" that claim Santini's plan to share the MX missiles with other states would "quadruple" the costs.

"We think they're just pulling those figures out of their hat," the aide said.

Santini said he is offering the amendment to the defense authorization bill because his state faces "the specter of having 140 nuclear missiles sitting in the Nevada desert (when)...we already have nuclear testing and storage.

"Nevada should not be the nation's nuclear playground."

Late last week President Carter confirmed that Nevada and Utah would be the site of the massive anti-

missile system which will include 200-plus missiles and approximately 4,600 shelters.

Initial congressional reaction to the plan was mixed, but generally favorable.

Sen. Howard Cannon, Nevada's senior senator, warmly endorsed the plan, saying it would have "a tremendously important economic impact on the state."

Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., was less enthusiastic and expressed some "grave reservations" about deploying the MX in Nevada.

Santini was most concerned. The third-term Democrat warned "we stand to lose our identity as the Silver State and become the Nuclear Weapons State."

Santini called the system "too much for one state to bear."

His amendment would spread the massive missile system around by directing that no funds be authorized for the MX if the deployment plan calls for more than 25 percent of the shelters to be placed in a single state.

Present plans call for some 3,220 of the shelters to be placed in Nevada with the remaining 1,380 in Utah.

If Santini's amendment were to become law, Nevada could be assigned no more than 1,150 shelters.

See MX,
Page 12A

MX

From Page 3A

"I support an MX type defense system," Santini explained during an interview. "What I'm concerned about is this is the most sweeping land use restriction decision that's probably been made in the history of Nevada.

"No state should be expected to assume all the burdens and benefits of this type of national defense system."

If Nevada becomes the home of 70 percent of the MX shelters, it would mean between 8-10,000 square miles of land would be restricted.

A Laxalt aide said the senator "shares his (Santini's) concerns," but added "he isn't prepared to support his amendment."

And Cannon is absolutely

opposed to the Santini's amendment, according to an aide, and "will vote against it if it reaches the Senate."

Santini would venture no prediction on the bill's chances of reaching the Senate and said he was pressing forward without taking a reading of his colleagues.

Santini suggested that Arizona and New Mexico, both finalists in the Defense Department's search for sites, should be considered for sharing the missile sites.

The defense authorization measure Santini intends to amend includes some \$670 million for initial engineering and design work on the MX. The total bill for the project is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$33 billion.

Senate support of MX still strong

Insight

By Stephanie Seldin
R-J Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — The MX missile system is still getting strong support in the U.S. Senate despite recent disruptions in the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks with the Soviet Union.

Most members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense said the United States needs the land-based missile system. There are disagreements, however, as to what kind of basing mode should be used and the importance of the system with or without a new SALT treaty.

The current MX plan calls for a racetrack basing mode which meets the arms limitations requirements of the SALT II agreement. Most senators think the Carter administration should consider alternative basing modes which might be less costly, more efficient and less harmful to the environment.

Related stories, Pages 13A, 6B

Senate concern over the type of MX basing mode was renewed a few weeks ago when senators from Nevada and Utah sent a letter to President Carter requesting that the Administration look into alternatives to the racetrack.

The letter, sent by Sens. Howard Cannon and Paul Laxalt of Nevada and Sens. Jake Garn and Orrin Hatch of Utah, asked the Carter administration to consider cheaper alternatives to the racetrack in view of the "changed security environment." Those "changes" include the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and congressional shelving of the SALT II treaty.

Both senators from Nevada think Senate hearings on the MX should continue despite the halt on SALT II

negotiations.

"We need some sort of defense system that would prevent the Soviets from overwhelming us in a surprise attack," Cannon explained. "We need a stalemate so they'll not be encouraged to attack us and we'll not be encouraged to attack them."

Laxalt said he would support the MX system if it is proven to be the best defense alternative. Laxalt is concerned, however, with the consequences of the racetrack deployment plan.

"The racetrack doesn't make sense," he said. "It would have enormous impact on the quality of life and on the environment in Nevada."

As the ranking Republican member of the Senate Subcommittee on Military

MX regardless of what happens to the SALT treaty.

"The MX system," he explained, "will help balance arms growth as part of national defense."

Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, agrees that the MX system is important even if the SALT treaty is rejected.

"The number of missiles the United States needs to produce depends on the degree to which there is a Soviet threat to our national defense."

Tower thinks the absence of an arms limitation agreement might result in "a larger Soviet threat," and says the MX system might have to be expanded to meet that threat.

Other senators say the future of the MX system will rely heavily on the outcome of the SALT II negotiations.

The MX was developed according to limitations stated in the SALT II treaty. Limitations on the number of nuclear warheads the Soviet Union could produce was one reason why the racetrack deployment was developed. With fewer warheads at their disposal, the Russians would have trouble detecting MX missiles when constantly moving on

the racetrack.

Sen. Robert Morgan, D-N.C., said the Soviet Union will be allowed to build as many warheads as it wants if the SALT II treaty is not enacted to limit nuclear arms growth. He wants other alternatives, such as new cruise missile or a new type of aircraft, to be considered instead of the MX if the SALT treaty is abandoned.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said building the MX system would be "ridiculous" if the SALT II treaty is not ratified. "The idea is to have more MX shelters than there are Soviet warheads," he explained.

Leahy said it would be almost impossible to build enough MX shelters to keep ahead of unlimited production of Soviet warheads. He suggested that a more efficient alternative to

meeting the challenge of unlimited arms growth would be the increased production of minuteman nuclear warheads.

Some senators thought the SALT II treaty would have little effect on the MX system because the treaty would expire in 1985, one year before the missiles would be ready for development in 1986.

Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, said this five-year limit "would make discussion of the MX more important to the language of a SALT III treaty."

Sen. Tom Eagleton, D-Mo., thinks other methods of defense should be explored. He said "too much money is being spent in sophisticated hardware and not enough on other alternatives like troop expansion."

An aide to Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., said Goldwater thinks the \$32 billion earmarked for the MX could "buy a lot of airplanes and ships."

R.J. 3-5-80

Cortez urges vote by county on MX

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

Because Clark County could be more greatly affected by the proposed MX missile system than originally believed, officials from that county should be a voting member of the multicounty oversight committee, Commissioner Manny Cortez said Tuesday.

Currently, three Clark County officials sit on the oversight panel as ex-officio, advisory members. Voting members consist of representatives from Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties, the three areas that expect to be hardest hit if the massive military project is built in Nevada.

"There is a potential that Clark County will be impacted by a service depot or drawn on for supplies. The county should be a voting member if only to assure that planning monies are reimbursed," Cortez said at the county commission meeting.

"If we're going to be impacted, we ought to have a vote," he said.

An amendment to the oversight committee's cooperative agreement will be prepared and presented at the next meeting of that board, which is scheduled for March 22 in Pioche.

In another MX matter, Mike Dyal, senior management analyst for the county, said a grant application for \$225,000 in planning monies should be approved by next week.

The application, prepared by Clark County, was approved Saturday by the

Oversight Committee and will be submitted to the governor Friday, Dyal said. The application then will need the approval of Utah's governor and of the chairman of the Four Corners Regional Commission, the agency distributing the federal funds.

Dyal said he did not see any problem with the application being approved. The money is part of Nevada's half of the \$1 million already granted by the federal government for the rural county officials to plan for the MX if it comes to their county. The other \$275,000 of Nevada's portion is being used by the state field office, which is working on state-related issues concerning the MX.

The \$225,000 would be used to hire an MX coordinator, assistant coordinator and secretary, all of whom will work out of Pioche.

There will also be two planners hired with one to work in White Pine County and one in Nye County.

R.d 3-5-80

MX area restrictions doubtful

By Terry Wade
R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - A congressional report made public Thursday is openly skeptical of government promises that restrictions will be placed on only 25 square miles of the proposed MX missile site in Nevada and Utah.

The General Accounting Office report called the position "questionable" and hinted the Air Force might eventually have to go to "area security" which would tie up thousands of square miles of public lands in the two states.

The report also said the proposed mobile missile system would cost at last \$56 billion dollars, raising serious questions about whether the Pentagon can afford it. The government has estimated the cost of the MX at \$33 million.

Other questions were raised about the future of the new defense system and the report left little doubt Air Force construction deadlines are not likely to be met.

Among the more serious questions raised in the 42-page report were doubts about the ability of the Department of Defense to obtain land in time for construction starts, the sufficiency of water, electricity and building materials sup-

plies and the security of a system deployed over an area the size of the state of Georgia.

The land withdrawal question is among the most controversial in the area proposed for missile deployment. As it now stands the entire project, which will include 200 missiles and 4,600 shelters spaced 7,000 feet apart, will be deployed over a rectangular area encompassing about 45,000 square miles.

The official government position continues to be that only 25 square miles of that 45,000-square-mile total will be fenced and under total security. Another 3,510 square miles for roads and 3,429 for a three-quarter mile safe-area around each shelter will have limited restrictions for public use.

The restrictions would not allow private construction, among other things. The remaining acreage would be as accessible as it is today, according to the Defense Department.

The GAO is not convinced. The report explains "... it is conceivable that the Air Force may be forced to revert to area security, or at least place some restrictions on the

public's activities within the deployment area."

The report's skepticism is sparked by doubts the Air Force can keep the identity of the shelter containing the missile secret with so much of the site open to the public.

The plan is to periodically move a transporter vehicle from one shelter to the other, sometimes with the missile, sometimes with equipment simulating a missile. In this way the location of the missiles will remain uncertain.

The GAO doubts the plan will work unless close scrutiny of the system is prohibited and that would require restrictions on a larger amount of land.

The land situation also presents another kind of problem to the MX, according to the report.

It ordinarily takes three to five years to withdraw public lands in the amounts the Air Force will need to begin construction by January 1988. It isn't difficult to determine the starting time is far ahead of the date when the Air Force could reasonably expect to have the land.

As the report points out, it will take "extraordinary action" to see MX AREA, Page 6B

—MX AREA—

From Page 1A

tion by the Congress or the administration" if the land is to be withdrawn in time.

Legal difficulties also could arise over the land withdrawal. As the report indicates, such a massive land withdrawal "has a large potential for major program delay because the process is complex, time-consuming and politically sensitive."

Part of the problem deals with the nine laws that govern withdrawal of public lands. In anticipation of such problems, the Air Force has prepared legislation that would circumvent the laws, but it isn't certain they will be approved.

Another chief concern of both the Defense Department and local and state officials is the water situation. Water is scarce in the area under consideration and the report says, "It is not known with any degree of certainty how much water is available and what the impact of its drawdown will be."

What is known is that the total project will require about 90 billion gallons of water between 1979 and 1999 and will eventually settle down to a four billion gallon-a-year requirement.

And exactly where the 180-megawatts of electricity, approximately the electrical requirements of a city with a population of 180,000, will come from is not known.

If additional power plant capacity must be built, that too offers ample opportunity for time delay. According to the GAO "normal commercial power generation additions are estimated to take six to 10 years..."

Even the construction material needed for the project is uncertain. The report points out construction projects in this part of the country are currently experiencing difficulty getting cement. The MX construction will take 2.7 million tons of cement, or twice the amount used to construct the Hoover Dam.

The impact of the SALT II treaty difficulties is also questioned in the report. Horizontal shelters were chosen over the vertical shelters, initially preferred by the Air Force, primarily because they would meet the treaty's requirements that the exact missile count for both the U.S. and the Soviet Union be verifiable.

The horizontal shelters added an estimated \$7 billion to the cost of the project. Without a treaty there is growing doubt about the expenditure of the additional funds.

Without the SALT II treaty it is possible more than 200 missiles would be needed, because as the reports say "administration officials have indicated that the Soviets could probably build enough weapons to neutralize the current MX system..."

There is even a doubt that there will be enough trained personnel in the country to handle such a large number of ballistic missiles by the 1986 deadline for first deployment.

The report draws no conclusions about the feasibility of the MX or about the method of deployment, but it has raised a multitude of serious questions and asks the Department of Defense to answer them before the project gets to far along. —w

R.J. 3-7-80

List ends tour of MX site areas

ELY (AP) — Gov. Bob List's tour of rural counties affected by the MX missile system ended here Thursday, with List repeating promises to get answers from the Air Force on the massive project.

The governor capped the three-day tour by meeting with miners, ranchers and others in this Eastern Nevada community which is within the vast Nevada-Utah area where MX could

be built.

Sylvia Baker of Baker, Nev., a leading MX foe, was on hand for the Ely meetings. She said she was pleased to see that List had adopted an "adversary" stance on MX and declined to criticize the governor for not doing so earlier.

List said he learned a lot during the meetings, which also included stops in Tonopah, Alamo, Caliente and

Pioche. The governor said the meetings brought home to him the kinds of concerns that people living in the MX area have.

List said that what he heard made him all the more determined to get answers from the military on MX impacts. He also said he was confident that White Pine County would work out an equitable solution with nearby counties

and get a local MX planning effort off the ground.

List had arrived in Ely late Wednesday to find that the fragile county planning effort for MX apparently had broken down.

The tour started in Tonopah, where List warned of a possible state lawsuit over MX, vowed to protect Nevadans' interests, and urged congressional representatives to do the same.

He repeatedly said the state must develop "hard facts" to counter some of the Air Force information on MX. List also said he was shocked and disappointed that the Air Force failed to include more MX planning funds for Nevada.

Federal control of MX funds opposed

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Decisions on how and where to spend impact funds in connection with the proposed MX missile system must be made by state and local governments, says the Utah project planner.

"We don't want to get involved in a paternalistic situation where federal government officials believe it's their responsibility to tell us what we need," Ken Olson said Thursday. Olson directs state MX planning for the governor's office.

He met earlier this week with Defense Department officials to discuss the use of impact funds in Utah and Nevada, prime sites for location of the nuclear weapons system.

"We simply tried to make the point that we want to see their role as one of helping us and facilitating our relation-

ship with the federal government, not controlling the relationship," Olson said.

An example of the problems that can stem from federal overcontrol of impact funds occurred when the government offered to give Utah and Nevada \$1 million to begin mitigation studies, Olson said. That funding was tied up by bureaucratic red tape, and was freed only when Gov. Matheson intervened and asked the White House for assistance, he said.

"If that is an example of the way the system will work, I think we've got serious problems with it," Olson said.

He said the two states cannot be forced to get federal clearance every time they want to conduct an MX-related study. Another problem is that Utah and Nevada lie in different federal regions, he said.

R.J. 3-7-80

MX Locales Warned To Stop Squabbling

ELY (UPI) — Gov. Robert List said Thursday local governments won't get any money to plan for the MX missile project unless they settle their squabble about how to spend it.

List arrived in Ely on the last leg of a three-day tour of Eastern Nevada where he talked with residents about the giant project and its impact on the thinly populated area.

White Pine, Lincoln, Nye and Clark counties formed a tentative planning staff

structure Saturday. It had been promised \$225,000 by the state in federal planning funds. But Wednesday, White Pine threatened to scuttle it because it wants a bigger share than had been allocated in the tentative budget drawn by Clark County.

"We've been had it," said White Pine County Commissioner J.K. Jones.

Jones said his county had agreed to the tentative budget proposal Saturday, but later his commission found it did not

account for as much as \$125,000 of the planning funds. He said White Pine would not get enough money to tackle its own MX impact problems "and we'll get one-third of the impact."

List said it is not the state's place to get involved in the dispute, but made it clear local governments must reach agreement or they won't get any of the \$225,000.

Wednesday, he visited Alamo, Caliente and Pioche. He told local officials he will

fight to see the Air Force protects private lands and ranchers' grazing rights, and would go to court if there are flaws in the MX environmental impact statement "if our lawyers have a good case."

But he also said Nevada cannot veto the project, so must plan to meet the impact. He said the battle whether MX will be designed and built "will be won in the halls of Congress."

MX Planning Funds Use Up To Local Governments

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Decisions on how and where to spend impact funds in connection with the proposed MX missile system must be made by state and local governments, says Utah's project planner.

"We don't want to get involved in a paternalistic situation where federal government officials believe it's their responsibility to tell us what we need," Ken Olson said

Thursday. Olson directs state MX planning for the governor's office.

He met earlier this week with Defense Department officials to discuss the use of impact funds in Utah and Nevada, prime sites for location of the nuclear weapons system.

"We simply tried to make the point that we want to see their role as one of helping us and facilitating our relationship with the

federal government, not controlling the relationship," Olson said.

An example of the problems which can stem from federal overcontrol of impact funds occurred when the government offered to give Utah and Nevada \$1 million to begin mitigation studies, Olson said. That funding was tied up by bureaucratic red tape, and was freed only when Gov. (Scott)

Matheson intervened and asked the White House for assistance, he said.

"If that is an example of the way the system will work, I think we've got serious problems with it," Olson said.

He said the two states cannot be forced to get federal clearance every time they want to conduct an MX-related study. Another problem is that Utah and Nevada lie in different federal regions, he said.

SUN 3-7-80

Contractors Meet On MX

Gov. Robert List and Sen. Paul Laxalt will host a conference Friday morning for contractors interested in obtaining contracts connected with the MX missile program.

Scheduled at 9 a.m. in the Las Vegas Convention Center board room, the conference will bring together Air Force officials and Air Force prime contractors who will detail procurement procedures for MX

contracts.

Design, development and construction of the MX missile system will be outlined, according to List's office.

"There have been numerous questions raised about how our contractors, consultants and others can contribute to the proposed MX project during its various stages, should it become a reality in Nevada,"

Laxalt said.

Expected to attend are as many as one dozen of the project's prime contractors, he said.

Following a general presentation, there will be group discussions in areas of special interest, Laxalt said.

A similar meeting is to be scheduled in the Reno area.

SUN 3-7-80

Nevadans must accept MX

List, Laxalt speak to Vegas contractors

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer



MX CONFERENCE - Gov. Robert List, left, and Sen. Paul Laxalt conducted a joint press conference Friday on the MX missile system. List said the system is "a bitter pill

to swallow" but could be sweetened by economic advantages.

R-J photo by Gary Thompson

Although most Nevadans would prefer the MX missile system not be located in this state at all, the time is right to start trying to reap economic benefits from the proposed system, Gov. Robert List said Friday.

"The MX will be a bitter pill for Nevadans to swallow, but at the same time we can put a sugar coating on that pill in the form of economic opportunity and jobs," List said.

He said even though it is not known if the MX will be built here, "the time has come for the economic benefits to be shared by us in Nevada." The start of those benefits could come from the "millions and millions of dollars" that is being spent to explore the issue, he added.

List said in his trip this week to several small towns in Central Nevada that he found that the mood of most of the rural county residents was that they would be a lot happier if the MX was built somewhere else.

However, he said the decision on the location of the MX will be made in Washington, D.C., and Nevadans "have got to make the best of it."

List was in Las Vegas to address a conference of prime contractors who were discussing their role in the MX with Air Force officials.

Sen. Paul Laxalt also spoke to the group.

Regarding Thursday's release of a congressional report that was skeptical of many promises Air Force officials have made in their attempt to sell the MX to Nevada, Laxalt said the report is yet another stumblingblock to the massive missile program.

"We need the MX desperately for national survival, but the battle concerns the basing mode. There are many problems with the MX racetrack and this (report) is an additional problem for that mode," he said.

If vertical shelters were distributed among several western states rather than placing horizontal racetracks in Nevada and Utah, "it would take a lot of the burn off Nevada and Utah," Laxalt said.

He added the alternatives to the racetrack mode will be a hotly debated issue in the next couple of months.

R.J. 3-7-80

GAO report skeptical of MX proposal

By Terry Wade
R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A congressional report made public Thursday is openly skeptical of government promises that restrictions will be placed on only 25 square miles of the proposed MX missile site in Nevada and Utah.

The General Accounting Office report called the position "questionable" and hinted the Air Force might eventually have to go to "area security" which would tie up thousands of square miles of public lands in the two states.

The report also said the proposed mobile missile system would cost at least \$56 billion, raising serious questions about whether the Pentagon can afford it. The Air Force has estimated the cost of the MX at \$37 billion.

Other questions were raised about the future of the new defense system and the report left little doubt Air Force construction deadlines are not likely to be met.

Among the more serious questions raised in the 42-page report were doubts about the ability of the Department of Defense to obtain land in time for construction starts, the sufficiency of water, electricity and building materials supplies and the security of a system deployed over an area the size of the state of Georgia.

The land withdrawal question is among the most controversial in the area proposed for missile deployment. As it now stands the entire project, which will include 200 missiles and 4,600 shelters spaced 7,000 feet apart, will be deployed over a rectangular area encompassing about 45,000 square miles.

The official Air Force position continues to be that only 25 square miles of that 45,000-square-mile total will be fenced and under total security. Another 3,510 square miles for roads and 3,429 for a three-quarter mile safe-area around each shelter will have limited restrictions for public use.

The restrictions would not allow private construction, among other things. The remaining acreage would be as accessible as it is

today, according to the Defense Department.

The GAO is not convinced. The report explains "It is conceivable that the Air Force may be forced to revert to area security, or at least place some restrictions on the public's activities within the deployment area."

The report's skepticism is sparked by doubts the Air Force can keep the identity of the shelter containing the missile secret with so much of the site open to the public.

The plan is to periodically move a transporter vehicle from one shelter to the other, sometimes with the missile, sometimes with equipment simulating a missile. In this way the location of the missiles will remain uncertain.

The GAO doubts the plan will work unless close scrutiny of the system is prohibited and that would require restrictions on a larger amount of land.

See MX,
Page 1B

R.J. 3-7-80

From Page 1A

The land situation also presents another kind of problem to the MX, according to the report.

It ordinarily takes three to five years to withdraw public lands in the amounts the Air Force will need to begin construction by January 1988. It isn't difficult to determine the starting time is far ahead of the date when the Air Force could reasonably expect to have the land.

As the report points out, it will take "extraordinary action by the Congress or the administration" if the land is to be withdrawn in time.

Legal difficulties also could arise over the land withdrawal. Such a massive land withdrawal "has a large potential for major program delay because the process is complex, time consuming and politically sensitive," the report continued.

Part of the problem deals with the nine laws that govern withdrawal of public lands. In anticipation of such problems, the Air Force has prepared legislation that would circumvent the laws, but it isn't certain they will be approved.

Another chief concern of both the

Defense Department and local and state officials is the water situation. Water is scarce in the area under consideration and the report says, "It is not known with any degree of certainty how much water is available and what the impact of its drawdown will be."

What is known is that the total project will require about 90 billion gallons of water between 1979 and 1999 and will eventually settle down to a 4 billion gallon-a-year requirement.

And exactly where the 180-megawatts of electricity, approximately the electrical requirements of a city with a population of 180,000, will come from is not known.

If additional power plant capacity must be built, that too offers ample opportunity for time delay. According to the GAO "normal commercial power generation additions are estimated to take six to 10 years."

Even the construction material needed for the project is uncertain. The report points out construction projects in this part of the country are currently experiencing difficulty getting cement. The MX construction will take 2.7 million tons of cement, or twice the amount used to construct the Hoover Dam.

The impact of the SALT II treaty difficulties is also questioned in the report. Horizontal shelters were chosen over the vertical shelters, initially preferred by the Air Force, primarily because they would meet the treaty's requirements that the exact missile count for both the U.S. and the Soviet Union be verifiable.

The horizontal shelters added an estimated \$7 billion to the cost of the project. Without a treaty there is growing doubt about the expenditure of the additional funds.

Without the SALT II treaty it is possible more than 200 missiles would be needed, because as the reports say "administration officials have indicated that the Soviets could probably build enough weapons to neutralize the current MX system..."

There is even a doubt that there will be enough trained personnel in the country to handle such a large number of ballistic missiles by the 1986 deadline for first deployment.

The report draws no conclusions about the feasibility of the MX or about the method of deployment, but it has raised a multitude of serious questions and asks the Department of Defense to answer them before the project gets to far along.

Utah ranchers oppose MX plan

R.J. 3-7-80

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah ranchers holding grazing permits for desert areas proposed as sites for the MX missile system are against the land-based system being built, a Utah Department of Agriculture position paper says.

Kent Briggs, and administrative aide to Gov. Scott Matheson, said the paper was released with the governor's "full support and backing."

The MX system, estimated by the General Accounting Office to cost \$56 billion dollars to build, would place 200 missiles in desert areas of Utah and Nevada. Each missile would be shuffled along a "racetrack" or loop of launching stations to avoid detection by the Soviet Union.

The paper says "not one of the ranchers holding grazing permits on the west desert is in favor of the project." It says opposition is based on the fear that MX construction will force ranchers from ranges "which they have spent many years developing."

If the system is built, ranchers want guarantees that they would be allowed adequate grazing facilities, measured in animal unit months (AUMs), and water supplies, the paper says.

The report also was critical of the Defense Department's allocation of MX impact funds.

"We hear of money being provided to handle the socioeconomic impact of the cities and counties and the expected influx of people," it said. "We hear of how many people will be assimilated by the community through this project, but we have never been able to learn how many AUMs will be lost, both during and after construction."

The paper says there is little information as to how much grazing land would be lost after an estimated 10,000 miles of road have been built for MX. The Defense Department also plans to fence off some 25 square miles around the missile sites.

Local contractors have MX edge

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

Nevada contractors will not be given preferential treatment, but will have to compete with contractors nationwide in bidding for work on the MX missile system, Air Force officials told about 300 members of the construction industry Friday.

However, local firms should have an advantage over the out-of-state companies and should be able to outbid them for contracts, officials said.

"Invariably, experience tells us that when bidding for construction contracts, the local firms can undercut those from the outside," said Norman Delbridge, division engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for construction of the missile project.

Local companies have less overhead, do not have to relocate and "know the ropes" in that area which enables them to keep their bids lower, Delbridge said.

"Local people have an enormous advantage just because they are local," said Brig. Gen. Forrest McCartney.

Using local firms to do the work is also beneficial to the areas affected by the construction because the workers are already part of the population and they do not leave the area after the project is completed, he said.

McCartney also said the magnitude of the massive military project — which is said to be the largest construction feat ever attempted — was more than Nevada's construction market could handle so outside firms would have to participate. The Air Force officials, joined by Gov. Robert List, Sen. Paul Laxalt and representatives from Sen. Howard Cannon's and Rep. Jim Santini's offices, were in Las Vegas to address a group of prime contractors who wanted to know what their role in the construction of the MX would be.

Bob Chapman, president of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association,

said he agreed the local industry did not have the inventory or the people necessary to handle the huge

project singlehandedly. However, he said locals did have an advantage in some areas, including working

with the electrical systems and steel.

He also said he believed the Air Force was making

an "honest attempt" to keep local contractors informed and get them involved in the project.

List takes hardline stance on MX missile project

By Brendan Riley

CARSON CITY (AP) — Gov. Robert List pulled few punches this past week as he voiced concerns over the Air Force's huge MX missile project — projecting a "strong man" image in a carefully orchestrated Central Nevada tour.

List seems deeply concerned about the impact of MX on Nevada. He's also sensitive to claims that his stand on this issue has been "fuzzy." During the tour he outlined some strongly worded changes in Nevada's policy on the project.

Reporters invited along for the trip saw List, at meeting sites ranging from an old mine to a Rotarians' luncheon, take his hardest line yet on MX. The comments appeared to be as strong as any remarks by List during his 14 months in office.

List staffers insist the tour wasn't set up as a "showcase" so that the Republican governor could present the "strong man" image. But that's just what happened.

The governor threatened lawsuits, demanded more information — and even bluntly suggested that U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., who has supported MX, "close ranks" with other Nevada and Utah congressmen to make sure the two states are protected.

Cynics might say it's easy for List to take shots at MX, since Congress must make the final decision anyway. But the way his aides see it, he took time to formulate a position and then forcefully detailed it.

The image conveyed — whether done deliberately or not — is one List needed to present. His first year in office has been as rough a "shakedown cruise" as any governor in recent history experienced.

The image is refreshing. Of course, it doesn't wipe out some of the negative impressions created during that tumultuous first year.

During 1979, List faced a series of disclosures and hassles that hit at the same time he was trying to assemble a working administration.

There was controversy over "comps" he accepted at the Stardust hotel-casino while serving as attorney general. One of his top agency chiefs underwent a probe for alleged double-dipping on expense accounts.

There were FBI disclosures of underworld involvement in some clubs. There were also problems inherited from the administration of former Gov. Mike O'Callaghan.

There were many problems with the low-level radioactive waste dump at Beatty. And the GOP governor even faced problems with his Democratic lieutenant governor, Myron Leavitt, who vowed to take some major actions during List's frequent absences from the state.

The governor also had to work with the 1979 Legislature, pushing through his legislative proposals. That took more time than he expected.

R.J. 3-9-80

Cannon land deals raise MX questions

Subpoenas delivered to Union Plaza Hotel Chairman Frank Scott last week in connection with a grand jury probe of Sen. Howard Cannon's land dealings indicate the investigation is going beyond an incident last year in which Cannon talked with convicted felon Alan Dorfman about purchasing property at the Las Vegas Country Club.

Scott and Cannon have long been partners in various land deals in Southern Nevada, and the state's senior senator holds about 2 percent of the stock in the corporation that controls the Union Plaza.

That same corporation recently bought up large parcels of land in Tonopah and other rural areas where the MX missile is expected to bring in thousands of workers and fuel an economic boom in the area.

Interestingly enough, Scott and Cannon began the buying spree a couple of years ago before information about the Air Force project was available to the general public.

Cannon, an officer in the Air Force Reserve and long active in military projects on Capitol Hill, is, significantly, the only member of Nevada's Congressional team to come out with his unqualified support of the system. Sen. Paul Laxalt and Rep. James Santini have questioned its cost and effectiveness.

Scott says he had no part of the aborted effort by a group headed by Cannon to buy the land in the Las Vegas Country Club, lending credence to beliefs that it is other Cannon-Scott land dealings that have drawn the attention of investigators.

Harvard prof to speak on MX at UNLV

A noted defense analyst and Harvard professor will speak at UNLV Thursday on his conclusion that land-based deployment of the MX missile system proposed for Nevada and Utah would be vulnerable to Soviet ICBM attack and more expensive than an alternate system.

Richard L. Garwin, professor of public policy at Harvard, a fellow of the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in New York and a Defense Department consultant, is expected to refute major points in the U.S. Air Force's public relations blitz which has been aimed at selling the \$33 billion project to skeptical Southwesterners.

Garwin will speak at 7 p.m. in Lounge 201, Moyer Student Union.

Costs may force MX scale-down

RENO (AP) — The MX missile system may have to be scaled down due to rising costs, Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., said Friday.

Cannon made the comment in response to a congressional report which concluded that the MX missile would cost at least \$56 billion. The Air Force had originally projected a \$33 billion cost.

The General Accounting Office report also said the program could be delayed for years because of the complex negotiations needed to obtain land for the missile sites planned for Utah and Nevada.

"I would agree with the conclusion that the future of the MX is uncertain — at least as regards its basing mode," Cannon said. He added that there may be "renewed effort to find a cheaper, more environmentally palatable MX design."



DANIEL GRAHAM
...MX speaker

MX system opponent to speak

A former deputy director of the CIA who questions the viability of deploying MX missiles on racetracks as proposed for Nevada and Utah will discuss his views this week in Las Vegas.

Gen. Daniel Graham, acting on a request from Sen. Paul Laxalt, will speak to the Citizens for Responsible Government at 7 p.m. Tuesday and to the Business and Professional Association of Southern Nevada Wednesday at noon. Both appearances will be at the Showboat Hotel.

Graham, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, has said he serious questions about the race-track deployment mode that Air Force officials have said is the best method of operation for the missile project.

Graham is also a chief spokesman in opposition to the ratification of SALT II in the Senate. He claims the United States lacks a clear policy for dealing with Soviet influence throughout the world and that the balance of military strength between the two superpowers is steadily eroding.

Washoe County to vote on MX

RENO (AP) — Washoe County commissioners have decided to let county voters express their opinion on the proposed MX missile system.

The commission on Tuesday voted 3-2 in favor of a proposal by Assemblyman Paul Prengaman, R-Reno. The November vote would only be a question of opinion — it would not be legally binding.

The two commissioners who voted against the proposal said they did so for technical grounds, not because they opposed it.

Earlier this year, Lander County commissioners adopted a similar resolution.

R.J. 3-12-80

Former defense official criticizes MX

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

The proposed MX missile system will not protect the United States from the Soviet Union, a former defense official said Wednesday in Las Vegas.

Gen. Daniel Graham, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, also said Congress will not support the system until an alternative to the racetrack basing mode is found.

"The United States in all but a few instances is inferior to the Soviet Union in military capability. But the MX racetrack system will not offset the situation. It is too expensive and will never get through the U.S. Congress. It is not the answer to the military questions facing the United States," Graham told about 60 members of the Business and Professional Association of Southern Nevada.

Graham said it is inconceivable that anyone would actually support the project. He said members of Congress would agree that



GEN. GRAHAM
... criticizes MX

the system is needed, but that they would reject the project in the proposed racetrack method of deployment.

Despite claims by some officials that the racetrack mode is the best system, Congress will look further for "the best possible deployment scheme," he said.

Graham also said Nevadans should never let anyone convince them that the MX racetrack system is the best.

"No one should ever convince you that as patriotic citizens you should support this system. As patriotic people, you should reject it," he said.

The general said he supported placing the MX missiles in vertical silos which would cost about \$20 billion less than the \$70 billion he estimates the total project will cost. Air Force officials have said the system, as proposed, will cost about \$33 billion in 1980 dollars.

Graham said ultimately, the Air Force should be put into space because the United States' space technology is far beyond that of the Soviet Union's.

He said the federal government should "turn American technology loose" to solve the defense problem.

Graham also said the proposed MX system does not make military sense be-

cause this country's time of maximum vulnerability will be in the early 1980s, before

the system is built.

The deployment scheme will not be ready until 1986

and then only 10 missiles will be operational "if we're lucky," he said.

Carter defended on MX stance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top defense officials have defended the Carter administration against a demand that the administration consider alternative ways of basing the huge MX missile system.

Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, told Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Gen. David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Wednesday that there is serious opposition to the "racetrack" deployment plan in Nevada and Utah where the system would be based.

R.J. 3-13-80

R.J. 3-13-80

Official from Pentagon slams missile report

A recent congressional report openly skeptical of government promises regarding the proposed MX missile system is an atrocity full of errors and misunderstandings, a Pentagon official said Wednesday.

The report has "numerous technical errors and misunderstandings of the concept of the system," and in general "draws conclusions without any in-depth analysis or rationale to support these conclusions," Lt. Col. Jesse Ford said.

The 42-page report, released by the General Accounting Office last week, called the government's position on the MX "questionable."

The study raised doubts about many issues, including cost of the project, the amount of land that would be withdrawn for the missiles, the availability of water and other resources and the legal problems involved in securing the land from the state.

Ford said the report created skepticism about issues that are "normally resolved during full-scale engineering development" which the Air Force is in the midst of conducting.

One charge by the GAO is that the Air Force may have to go to "area security" which would take up considerably more land than the 25 square miles the military is claiming will be off-limits to the public. Most of the 45,000 square miles of the total deployment area could be withdrawn under area security, the study said.

Ford countered the charge saying "We have always said it will be point security just like we've had for 20 years with the Minuteman system and it is never going to change."

The GAO also reported that the project, which Air Force officials have said will cost about \$33 billion, would cost at least \$56 billion. The study raised concern about whether the government could afford the system.

Ford said that estimate is comparing 1989 dollars with 1980 dollars and does not account for inflation. If the figures were put in perspective, the missile project still would account for only about 3 percent of the total defense budget, he said.

Ford said most of the accusations in the document had not been put into perspective and almost did not deserve comment because "most intelligent people could read it and see how poor it (the report) is."

25

3.13.1980

IBM Aide Says MX On Way Out

The race track-based MX missile will be scrapped some time during the next two years in favor of another basing alternative, predicted Richard L. Garwin of IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Thursday night.

Garwin, a physicist, Harvard University professor and defense analyst, told those attending a UNLV symposium that "strictly on a national security basis, MX won't fly."

Garwin said he is opposed to the race track because it is not survivable and has gained too high a "domestic profile. MX is a race track to oblivion," he added.

He claimed the missile system proposed for Nevada and Utah would be susceptible to attack from both land-based and submarine-launched Soviet missiles. This type of attack could destroy the 4,600 shelters proposed to house the MX. Also, the Soviets could greatly increase the accuracy of their land-based missile force by the time MX is fully deployed in 1989.

Instead, the weapons system analyst proposes a fleet of small submarines, each carrying two to four modified MX missiles, to be deployed off either coast of the United States.

These subs would be non-nuclear and would remain submerged 200-400 miles off the coast where they would be invulnerable to Soviet attack, he said.

Garwin estimated the cost of the Shallow Underwater Mobile System (SUM) at somewhere between \$12-15 billion. Air Force officials estimate race track-based MX at \$33 billion, with a congressional estimate pegging the giant project at as high as \$56 billion.

BLM Voices Concern Of MX System

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Land Management, in a likely boost for opponents of the controversial MX missile system, has told the Air Force it has "some very serious concerns" about the impact of the planned MX deployment in Nevada and Utah.

"We've submitted to the Air Force this week some concerns that have to be addressed in the environmental impact statement," said David Williams, head of BLM's official of special projects in Washington. "The impact of the construction phase is going to be extremely serious."

While remaining officially neutral on the system, BLM spelled out concerns in five specific areas that closely paralleled the complaints of those who oppose the planned method of deploying the missiles in the so-called race track mode.

The \$30-billion to \$40-billion program calls for a series of loop roads with missile shelters dotted along their lengths. As the system now stands, 200 missiles will be hidden among hundreds of shelters with the idea of frustrating Soviet missile aimers.

If the bureau should become an ally of Western MX opponents because of the concerns it is expressing, it will be an ironic matching. As the representative of Washington on such sensitive matters as water use and allocation of grazing rights, the bureau is a much-disliked organization. "BLM is a four-letter word in Utah," said one congressional aide who is monitoring the issue.

Williams said that one of his chief concerns was the economic impact of such a large project competing with other construction in the area, principally an already-approved power plant at Delta, Utah.

The local inflation caused by competition could prove the single most serious problem, he said.

Among more traditional BLM concerns were those dealing with grazing and mining claims on federal land.

"During construction, the impact (on grazing federal land) will be significant and there are a lot of questions," Williams said.

Sorting out thousands of mining claims affected by the missile construction "will be a horrendous problem," Williams said.

The BLM is cooperating with the Air Force in the completion of its environmental impact statement. The service recently finished a series of meetings designed to gauge the scope of social, economic and environmental problems involved in building the system.

Garn said he and Nevada Sen. Paul Laxalt, who also opposes the basing plan, hope to hold hearings to make sure alternatives are being given serious consideration.

List: 'That Makes My Hair Bristle'

State May Get Entire MX System

CARSON CITY (UPI) — The Air Force told Gov. Robert List Tuesday it was considering building all of the giant MX missile system in Nevada, a move the governor said would spark a civil war between the state and the Pentagon.

"That makes my hair bristle," an angry List told a news conference. He said Nevadans don't want the \$33 million project located in this state and it should be built in other places.

"This project will take our land, condemn our water and confiscate our work force," said List, who has grown increasingly hostile to placing the missile system here.

The Air Force favors locating its 2,400 missile shelters in Nevada and Utah. But List said he was told by Air Force Brig. Gen. Forrest McCartney that the environmental impact statement will, as an alternative, consider Nevada as an only site.

McCartney told the governor there were enough valleys in Nevada in which to locate the 200 race track system but there were not enough in Utah to wholly house the project.

McCartney said it was a requirement of the environmental impact statement to consider all of Nevada. However McCartney, according to List, does not favor building it all in Nevada. The impact statement will, of course, consider locating it in both states.

An aide to List said McCartney's disclosure hit the governor "like a bomb." And the governor said, "It's the worst thing I have heard."

There is a growing momentum against MX in Nevada, said the governor, and the location of the full system in the state "will light a fire under us like he (McCartney) has never seen before."

The Air Force, List said, will make a decision within a week whether to conduct environmental impact studies of locating part of the system in the South Dakota-Wyoming area or in the West Texas-New Mexico area.

"I don't care if it costs an extra \$10 billion," said List. "Let's spread it around a little bit," referring to building portions in other sections of the nation.

The governor said Nevadans from one end of the state to the other and in all economic walks of life don't want MX here.

System Would Burden State Services

Impact Of MX Not In Health Plan

By MONICA CARUSO

SUN Staff Writer

A far-reaching health plan governing Nevada's health facilities does not address the staggering effect the imminent MX missile system is expected to have on this state's health and medical community.

The state Office of Health Planning and Resources did not have enough information on the proposed MX system, and therefore did not include it in the plan when it was drafted earlier this year, according to Myrl Nygren, administrator of the health planning and resources office.

But Nygren told the SUN from her office in Carson City Tuesday the state agency has contacted federal authorities to voice concern over the MX's impact on the already overburdened health services in the sparsely populated central area of Nevada which is slated for

construction of the massive defense project. "We hope they will take our comments into consideration," she said.

A public hearing on the state health plan, aimed at insuring quality health care for all persons in the state, is scheduled to be conducted in on March 31 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the conference board room of the Las Vegas Convention Center.

A final version of the state health plan, which is mandated by the federal government, must be filed with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare by June 30.

Meanwhile, health officials in Las Vegas expressed skepticism and concern over the impact the 800-page document will have on local health care.

Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital Administrator George Riesz called the four-year plan "very general" and said

it did not address specific points about health care.

He cited the section on the role of the state in mental health as an example of the documents inadequacies, saying the plan calls for more active participation by the state in mental health, while state officials contemplate pulling out of mental health and contracting with private facilities for mental health services.

Ernest Libman, an assistant administrator for health planning at Sunrise Hospital, said the document "is more like an encyclopedia than a plan in that the state does an adequate job listing various aspects of health care, but it does not get down to any specifics."

He said the plan was deficient because it does not address the impact of tourists on health facilities. "They

(state) give some lip service to the kind of community we are, but they don't go into the tremendous impact the health care providers experience from tourists."

A major defect in the plan, Libman said, is that 1977 statistical information was used. "I find it very, very disturbing that they're (state) locked into 1977 information and they're dealing with 1980 and 1981 realities."

Statistical information in the plan will be used by state Health Systems Agencies to make future determinations on requests from the health and medical community to expand facilities and services.

Both Riesz and Libman said the state Office of Planning and Resources did not contact their hospitals for comment or help while putting the plan together.

SUN 3-19-80

Official Predicts MX Water Woes

CARSON CITY (UPI) — Assemblyman Joe Dini, D-Yerington, says his study committee on Nevada's water problems will hold a roundtable discussion March 24 in Reno with Gov. Robert List about the MX-missile system.

Dini said the construction of the MX raises many unanswered questions about water. The lawmakers will also will talk about importing water into Nevada.

SUN 3-21-80

Oversight Committee meeting set

A proposal for \$3.5 million in planning money will be considered by the multicounty MX Oversight Committee Saturday in Pioche.

The request, if approved by the committee, would then have to work its way through Congress before any actual planning programs could be started, said Mike Dyal, senior management analyst for Clark County.

"Virtually nothing has been planned yet in those counties. This money would be for planning work programs," Dyal said.

The request was drafted by a subcommittee, whose members include representatives of each of the affected counties and the state MX office, and must be okayed by the full committee before going on, he said.

If approved, the proposal's first step will be the subcommittee on military construction, a House appropriations panel chaired by Utah congressman Gunn McKay, Dyal said.

R.J. 3-22-80

Official to speak at Nellis

The Air Force official in charge of research and development of the MX missile system is scheduled to speak to the Southern Nevada Federal Executive Association at Nellis Air Force Base at 10 a.m. Monday.

Lt. Gen. Kelly Burke, deputy chief of staff, research, development and acquisition for the Air Force's headquarters in Washington, D.C., has been an outspoken advocate to Congress and other groups about the need for the MX, particularly in the proposed form.

Burke has been influential in designing the project as it is now proposed, according to one Air Force official. He will reportedly speak on why the proposed design is the best and why the system should be built in Nevada.

R.J. 3-22-80

List to ask for slowdown on MX program progress

ELKO (AP) — Nevada Gov. Robert List said Friday he and Utah Gov. Scott Matheson will urge Congress next week to show some "good sense" and slow down the Air Force's fast-moving MX missile project.

List also said he and Matheson would ask for "minimal" sums of federal funding to help develop data so the states can respond effectively to the Air Force's environmental impact statement on the MX project.

But List said the fund requests — \$2 million in Nevada's case — are in no way

to be construed as tacit concessions that MX will be built in the two states. "We're not going to get in step with the Air Force," he added.

"Our testimony is going to be based on the fact that a decision on MX has not been made. We're not going to assume it's going to come here," the governors said.

Matheson said at a news conference that he was totally dissatisfied with the federal process of examining the MX proposals, but felt the MX was a good missile system.

Matheson also said he

and List were "together on this one," nothing there had been concern that the two states were at odds over some aspects of the MX.

List said he had planned to ask for more money than Utah since about two-thirds of the MX racetracks could be built in Nevada. But he decided to follow Matheson's lead and request only the "minimal" amount.

List also said, "I'd be the happiest guy in the world if the Air Force tomorrow said they had found a better

way to do it and they were going to go away."

In a later telephone interview, List said the two states are "not going to get in step with the Air Force. We're not going to fall into the mitigation trap. We're instead going to urge Congress to put the brakes on this baby."

The Nevada governor said he and Matheson want to "reserve the right" to go before Congress again "if worse comes to worse and mitigation funds become a necessity."

Cannon calls MX negative impact 'overstated'

RENO (AP) — The negative impacts of the proposed MX missile system have been "highly overstated," Sen. Howard Cannon says — but he strongly denied he is trying to force the system onto Nevada.

While the Air Force has estimated that 25,000 construction workers would be needed at peak of the \$56 billion project, Cannon, D-Nev., said Friday he learned last week during Senate hearings that one contractor said only 12,000 would be needed.

In remarks prepared for the Washoe Democratic Convention Friday, Cannon said that since 12,000 is the estimated permanent workforce needed for the missile, "it means there would be no boom and bust cycle" for the state — a major worry expressed by state officials.

Cannon also said the water and concrete needed for the system would be far less than reported in some cases.

Other state figures, notably Gov. Robert List, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., and Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., have expressed growing alarm over the what the MX might do to Nevada and Utah.

Both Santini and Laxalt also said they support the MX as needed to offset the Soviet military threat, but neither has promoted it as strongly as has Cannon.

Referring to Gov. Robert List's March 4 challenge urging Cannon "to close ranks" with other state figures, Cannon said he is "not trying to shove this system down the throats of Nevadans."

"Because I have refused to waffle on the need for an MX system, I have been portrayed by some as working against the best interests of my state. This

is nonsense," he said.

Cannon said he has pressed for studies of alternate MX basing systems and sites outside of Nevada. "But if it has to be in Nevada, there will be no one working harder than I to secure the best treatment for our residents," he said.

He said the Air Force estimates that \$200 million to \$300 million will be

needed to alleviate impacts of the MX. List last year estimated \$800 million would be needed.

List said Thursday that the project would have a "devastating economic impact" on Nevada because thousands of high-paying construction jobs would "confiscate" workers from ranching and mining — possibly stifling the state's mining boom.

But competition for workers "happens every day," Cannon told a reporter. He compared it to the competition for jobs that occurred when the MGM Grand Hotel was constructed in Reno. "You'd never get away from competition for employees," Cannon said.

Cannon complained that some press estimates had set the project's annu-

al water demands at 300,000 acre feet. "It wouldn't require 10 percent of that," he said, adding that it would peak at 30,000 acre feet a year and decline to a steady 12,000 acre feet.

He said that is "enough to maintain 12 golf courses in Las Vegas for a year."

Cannon also said he believed Air Force assurances that there are no

plans to put the system wholly in Nevada — a fear expressed by List.

R.J. 3-22-80

[REDACTED]

Cannon defends MX stand

By Tim Dahlberg
R-J Staff Writer

Denying he is "trying to shove this system down the throats of Nevadans," U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon on Saturday reaffirmed his support of the proposed MX missile system.

In a speech before the Clark County Democratic Convention, Cannon said the land-based missiles are a "basic tenet" of America's national security system.

"My position on this matter is simple and, I might add, has remained the same since the first day the MX was mentioned," he said.

"Our country needs a new generation of

land-based missiles to preclude a potential first-strike capability by the Soviets."

Cannon discounted recent statements by Gov. Robert List that he is trying to force the missile system on Nevadans.

"Because I have refused to waffle on the need for an MX system, I have been portrayed

Related story, Page 14A

by some as working against the best interests of my state. That is nonsense, as anyone who is familiar with my record in the Senate can attest. I stand ready to do anything possible to

help Nevada prepare for the MX, if indeed it is coming here."

The state's senior senator, however, said he has written President Carter, urging him to consider different modes of the system that would bring it on line faster with less environmental impact.

Cannon claimed estimates 50,000 persons are needed to construct the system are exaggerated, saying one unidentified engineering firm has told the Air Force it could do the job with a peak labor force of 12,000 people.

See CANNON,
Page 4A

25
3-23-1980

CANNON

From Page 1A

"That is important for two reasons. One, since 12,000 is also the estimated steady state force after construction, it means there would be no boom-and-bust cycle," he said. "And two, the support personnel and dependents associated with a 12,000-man force are a heck of a lot less than if you have 50- or 60,000 workers."

Cannon also suggested claims the MX would deplete the state's water resources are erroneous

The senator claimed the water needed to maintain the MX system is no more than is used to water 12 golf courses in Las Vegas for one year.

But Cannon said he shares concerns that the state must protect its own interests.

"I realize that these facts don't remove all the concerns over MX and that Nevada must be vigilant in seeing that its interests are protected. I do think they put some of the problems in perspective, however, and that Nevadans have not been getting this information through the media."

After Cannon's speech, former state Sen. Mary Gojack appealed to the estimated 900 delegates attending the convention for their help in her campaign to unseat Republican Sen. Paul Laxalt.

"We should send a junior Democratic senator to work in Washington, not out to run errands for a washed up movie star," Gojack said, referring to Laxalt's efforts in behalf of Ronald Reagan.

Gojack said Nevadans need another senator who cares about working people and will put their interests first.

RS 3.23.1980

Air Force general defends MX system

By James Kastelle
R-J Staff Writer

If a vote on the proposed MX missile system were held today in Nevada and Utah, residents would overwhelmingly reject the idea of having the massive undertaking deployed in either state, the designer of the defense project said Monday.

But Lt. Gen. Kelly Burke, deputy chief of staff, research, development and acquisition for the Air Force, said in spite of opposition to the system, he still thinks that the MX is "the most important military decision of modern times.

"If a plebiscite were held today in Nevada and Utah, the MX would lose," Burke said.

"But I can understand why," he said. "It's a very complicated issue, and it's very difficult in a democratic society for complicated issues to be fully explained."

"Every time you turn on the television or pick up the newspaper, there's some new voice adding some new view to this," he added.

"I can see why the people of Nevada and Utah are confused. I hope that the next round of hearings will give us (Air Force) a chance to bring the full and accurate picture to them in a manner that is comprehensible."

Burke repeatedly emphasized his belief that without the MX, the United States will have no defense alternatives to the threat of a nuclear attack by the Soviet Union.

"The MX is a simple and fundamental thought," he said. "The United States is simply aspiring to maintain a strategic nuclear balance with Russia from 1990 and beyond."

It's the fundamental security of the United States that's involved in this," he said.

"This proposal has encompassed 10 years of extensive study," Burke added. "It's just not something we dreamed up last week to come and dump on you people."

Burke, who addressed a closed-door session of the Southern Nevada Federal Executive Association at Nellis Air Force Base, said Gov. Robert List's claim last week that the Air Force wanted to deploy the entire MX system in Nevada was somewhat misleading.

"The National Environmental Act requires the Air Force to consider all the feasible alternatives for an impact statement,"

Burke said. "One of the alternatives is putting the whole MX in Nevada."

The Air Force has no intention of doing that — it never has had any intention of doing that. But it must be included in the environmental impact statement nonetheless," he said.

He said before the Air Force settled on the Nevada-Utah region for the defense system, it examined other areas of the country for geological and technical suitability.

The criteria used in determining the site included the need for a deep ground water supply, the need for relatively level terrain, the need for bedrock and the need for large continuous areas of suitable land, Burke said.

"These criteria eliminated much of the United States," he said. "Nevada and Utah came to the forefront when we applied military requirements."

"For obvious security reasons," he added, "the system should be located away from foreign borders ... or oceans."

There is no benefit to spreading the system over several areas because it will only be larger, more expensive, would require more people to operate it and would be less reliable, he said.

Splitting the system would require a duplication of facilities and personnel, and would mean communications would be looser, he stated.

Burke said even though a recent CIA report showed the Soviets will theoretically achieve the capability to destroy the largest portion of silo-based Minuteman missiles in the United States in the next few years, it does not mean "the complete vulnerability of the United States."

"We can endure a temporary threat to, or disruption of one system, by relying more heavily on the others during a dangerous period," Burke said.

The three-star general said claims the MX will become obsolete by the time it is operational are false, and would be true only if the Soviets abandoned any further interest in strategic arms limitations, if the United States did not improve the survivability of the MX or if the U.S. did not improve or maintain the other two legs of the Triad system of strategic forces: The bomber and cruise missile fleet and the submarine-launched ballistic missile force.

He said the MX basing mode as a defense mechanism was se-

lected over the submarine missile system because more weapon capability would be lost if a submarine was hit by an enemy warhead.

Burke explained it would take about three Soviet warheads to destroy one MX missile. But it would take only one warhead to destroy a submarine carrying the required 240 Minuteman missiles.

In addition, the physical makeup of the Trident missile would not be able to withstand repeated missile bombardment, he said.

He called the submarine missile system "an intellectual philosophy ... a silly notion with no substance."

He said the issue of water was not as frightening as it has been made out to be.

"I can't think of anything that will create 12,000 jobs and use the small amount of water that the MX will use," he said. "We've already agreed to abide by state water rights."

He said the project would use about 13,000 acre-feet of water a year.

"I'm told that's what is used annually on Las Vegas golf courses," he said.

Other studies show there are ample water supplies about 1,000 to 1,500 feet beneath the earth's surface, he said.

The Air Force will not violate mineral or grazing rights, he said. If a basing mode is found to have been built on a valuable oil deposit, "we'd move it," he said.

And he promised, "In no case would we take more than 2 percent of grazing land out of a single section" of the proposed MX sites.

He added a system of giving ranchers land in return for grazing land would probably be worked out with the Bureau of Land Management.

Burke said Gov. Robert List was "patriotic and concerned" about the possibility the MX will be deployed in Nevada, but the "hysteria and hyperbole surrounding the MX and some of the rhetoric makes it very, very difficult for politicians to effectively communicate on the issue."

"A lot of what has been stated about the environmental impacts of the MX has been overstated and overdramatized," Burke said.

RJ 3-25-80

Defense secretary defends MX

By Terry Wade
R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Waving the spectre of Soviet missile superiority before a key congressional subcommittee, Defense Secretary Harold Brown defended the proposed MX missile system and its racetrack deployment system Tuesday.

Brown warned the House subcommittee on military construction the "improved accuracy of Soviet fourth generation ICBMs" early in this decade would "permit the targeting of two warheads against each Minuteman silo."

"The system will be expensive" Brown conceded, but he was quick to point out there is no alternative to improving the United States' land-based strategic system.

In his prepared testimony Brown also attempted to shoot down two major problems opponents contend make the racetrack system impractical.

Brown claimed concerns about the amount of water the system would use are "less serious than many thought." According to his testimony, the annual requirement for water is roughly "equivalent to the total consumed at 12 golf courses in the greater Las Vegas area, 13,000 acre-feet

per year."

Nevada Rep. Jim Santini raised strong objections to the racetrack deployment system, which would cover an area the size of Georgia in the deserts of Nevada and Utah.

Santini's position is consistent with one taken by the Utah and Nevada Senate delegation several weeks ago. At that time a letter was sent to Brown and President Carter asking for consideration of alternatives to the racetrack.

Santini asked Brown to continue development of the missile, but to delay a decision on the basing system.

Brown argued, "To build the missile and to delay the basing system is to delay the availability of our response to Soviet actions that make Minuteman (the government's current land-based missile system) vulnerable."

Despite what appeared to be an adamant commitment to the racetrack method Brown promised to "take a look at other people's arguments" on basing methods.

Another concern raised by Santini, who is not a member of the committee but was invited to ask questions, is the possibility that more than 4,600 missile shelters will be constructed.

Brown acknowledged that possibility exists "if the Sovi-

ets are prepared to spend the 30, 40, \$50 billion that would take....," but he added he doesn't believe the Soviets are prepared to do that.

Concern over the cost of the system, which the Air Force estimates at \$33 billion and others contend will cost closer to \$60 billion, is not well-founded, according to Brown.

"The cost of this system," Brown said, "in constant dollar terms will be no greater than any one of the original three legs of the strategic triad (submarines, bombers, land-based missiles)."

As an example, according to Brown, the Minuteman program cost \$40 billion to construct (using fiscal 1980 dollars).

"If we do not correct the ICBM deficiency, the Soviets can concentrate their efforts to negate our SLBH (nuclear submarine) and air-breathing (bomber) forces more easily and sooner," Brown said, "thereby increasing the risk of technological surprise and leading to a possibly dangerous gap in deterrence."

The hearing will continue Wednesday with other Defense officials and the governors of both Nevada and Utah.

R.J. 3-26-80

Air Force to honor water rights

By R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Air Force tried Wednesday to allay fears of Nevada and Utah congressmen that their states' water supplies would be endangered by the construction of the MX system.

Antonio Chayes, undersecretary of the Air Force, told a House subcommittee, "The Air Force will follow all state water laws and procedures." According to Chayes's testimony, that position has been "confirmed" by the president.

She also assured the House Military Construction subcommittee that at least one site other than the Nevada-Utah desert is under considera-

tion.

Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., openly scoffed at the suggestion the Air Force hadn't settled on the site, telling Chayes, "I am afraid that the train is in the station and about to leave and the people in Nevada and Utah are passengers whether they like it or not."

Chayes supported statements made before the committee Tuesday by the secretary of defense, who said the actual water usage of the missile base would only slightly affect the states' water supply.

The committee was told by Secretary of Defense Harold Brown the annual usage would be only 13,000 acre

feet. Chayes confirmed that figure and said the maximum water need would not exceed 30,000 acre feet annually during the peak years of construction, 1986-87.

Chayes said the southern High Plains of West Texas and New Mexico as a site for the MX system "is not eliminated...and is being studied."

Based on Chayes's testimony, that area meets most of the standards sought for the missile sites, but the population in the area is "somewhat high from the perspective of maintaining location uncertainty." She said a study is being done to see "precisely the actual distribution of people on the land."

Several other sites mentioned by Chayes in California, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska have been eliminated either because they are too close to international borders or, in the Colorado-Kansas-Nebraska case, too close to areas containing high value targets such as Minuteman missiles and Strategic Air Command headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb.

Chayes explained the MX can not be situated too close to a border or the coastline because that would make it too vulnerable to sensors which might be able to determine where the missiles are located. It would also make the launching communications sys-

tem easier to jam.

The undersecretary sought to discredit recommendations made by Santini and others that the MX be based in several states. (Santini earlier this year unsuccessfully attempted to amend an appropriation bill requiring no more than 25 percent of the missiles be placed in one state.)

Chayes said basing fewer than 50 percent of the missiles in a separate basing area "raises the costs of the system from 5 to 7 billion dollars."

"It does not appear that the benefits of reduced socio-economic impact warrant the substantial increase in cost and complexity and the degradation of operational integrity," Chayes said.

R.J. 3-26-80

List tells Congress MX plan should be delayed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nevada Gov. Robert List told Congress Wednesday the proposed MX missile program is being rushed without either proper concern for the environment or full consideration of alternative defense systems.

"The more I learn about MX, the more I wish the Pentagon would develop a better method to protect the nation," List said in remarks prepared for a House Appropriations subcommittee on military construction.

List said Utah Gov. Scott Matheson agreed with him that major decisions on the project should be delayed until "Congress has given careful, rational consideration to all reasonable alternatives."

The MX system is eyed dubiously by residents of Utah and Nevada, who note the project will require about 25,000 construction workers and could mean a permanent population gain of 13,000 people.

List said neither he nor Matheson has received an outline of the preliminary environmental impact statement due by June.

"It is unbelievable to me that the (environmental impact statement) is only three months away and the Air Force does not even know what is going to be in it," he said. "Frankly, the thought also has crossed my mind that they know that it will be inadequate and they do not want Nevada and Utah to have a minute of extra time to prepare a legal challenge."

R.J. 3-26-80

U.S. agrees to respect water rights

CARSON CITY (AP) — The federal government has backed away from its claim of a nonreserved water right in a 55-year-old fight over Carson River water rights, Attorney General Dick Bryan says.

Bryan said Tuesday federal attorneys say they'll now comply with state water law in what's known as the Alpine case — oldest active case on record in the U.S. federal court system.

Bryan had criticized the Air Force stand on water rights for the MX project. He said March 10 that "an emergency credibility gap is developing," and cited the Alpine case as proof of the problem.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The proposed "racetrack" basing mode for the MX missile system should be rejected, Rep. Jim Santini has told a house appropriations subcommittee.

Santini, D-Nev., told the House Subcommittee on Military Construction Appropriations on Tuesday, "If Congress doesn't unequivocally direct this re-evaluation of basing, I can assure you no one else will."

While the MX project itself has substantial support in Congress, the racetrack basing mode has aroused controversy for its cost and impact on the environment. Last year, the Senate voted over-

Nevada news

whelmingly to prevent use of MX funds if they would lock the system into the racetrack.

That system involves putting each of 200 missiles on a "racetrack" loop with 23 missile silos. Missiles would be shuttled from silo to silo to confuse possible attackers.

"As far as the Air Force, Department of Defense and the President are concerned, the ballgame is over on MX basing," Santini said.

"It's the racetrack and it's in Nevada and Utah."

Santini also accused the Air Force of a lack of credibility in its public relations campaign to win approval of the proposed \$56 billion nuclear missile system.

"The Air Force and the Department of Defense would have us believe that the racetrack mode of deployment is practically sacred," Santini said. "However, leading defense experts outside the Pentagon criticized racetrack basing on strategic grounds."

He said the Air Force itself is worried that the system might not rule out Soviet success in knocking out U.S. mis-

siles.

Pentagon officials recently told Congressmen that proposed alternatives to the racetrack

were far worse.

Santini also questioned the Air Force's credibility in its assurances about cost, aid and

cooperation with local government, access to public land and resources required for construction.

R.J. 3-26-80

MX missile complex incomprehensible

Editor's note—Bob Glassburn's views do not necessarily reflect those of the Review-Journal.

By Bob Glassburn

Can you imagine some 200,000 construction workers and Air Force personnel in the middle of a semi-arid desert with nothing to do but work, drink and poach wildlife for 10 years? The resulting damage to the natural resources is incomprehensible.

For the many thousands of Nevadans whose lives revolve around the outdoors, the MX missile complex will wipe us out to the last deer and chukar. Non-game species, many endangered already, like the Golden Eagle and many species of hawks will suffer, some beyond recovery.

The slaughter of animals in Alaska resulting from the construction of the Oil Pipeline should be a warning to Nevadans.

No amount of law enforcement can stop it. Besides who cares about a deer, antelope or elk? Money is the magic word. What would be better for the gaming industry than nearly a quarter of a million, money spending workers coming to Nevada.

The unions would grow to a size never dreamed of locally. Never mind the environment of wildlife or fisheries. We can live without them.

Who cares about our way of life in Nevada? Kill all the game, change our lives, do what ever they want as long as they bring plenty of money. But what about 10 or 15 years from now? Are dollars really worth it?

Governor opposes MX in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Gov. Bruce King says he doesn't believe the federal government's proposed MX missile system should be located "on the agricultural land in eastern New Mexico."

King, speaking at a press conference Thursday, said he is opposed to building the MX in eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The area was discussed earlier this week as a possible site. The prime site was listed as Utah and Nevada.

Locating the system in New Mexico "would not be in the interest of the area. I thought the planning was progressing well in the thinly populated portions of Utah and Nevada."

King suggested that the Air Force use the technology available at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories, Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque and White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico in working on the project.

Rep. Harold Runnels, D.N.M., said Wednesday he opposed locating the system in eastern New Mexico.

R.J. 3-28-80

R.J. 3-27-80

ABM To Protect MX Violates U.S.-Russ Pact

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Army reported Tuesday it is making good progress developing an exotic new weapon to protect the controversial MX missiles whose basing in Utah and Nevada has caused a political storm.

But deploying the Army's new anti-missile missile would violate a key 1972 U.S.-Soviet arms pact.

And planners do not see the new anti-missile missile as a means of defusing the political furor over MX deployments on vast "race track" bases in the two states.

Maj. Gen. Grayson Tate, director of the Army's anti-missile program, described to reporters the new low-altitude interceptor designed to seek out and destroy the nuclear warheads

of attacking Soviet missiles.

The interceptor would hit the attackers at an altitude of about 100,000 feet as they neared their targets — Minutemen, Titan and MX missiles.

A prime advance over its predecessor, Tate said, is the interceptor's ability to distinguish lethal warheads from used-up parts of attacking missiles.

Tate said the interceptor could make the distinction because it is loaded with sophisticated data processing equipment which makes necessary guidance calculations at low cost.

The interceptor actually destroys the attacker with a small nuclear detonation of its own. That explosion — equivalent to several thousand tons

of dynamite — would do some damage on the ground immediately below.

"We have high confidence it would work," Tate told a group of defense correspondents, "and we could deploy it concurrently with the MX."

Under a 1972 U.S.-Soviet treaty, both superpowers forswore deployment of extensive anti-ballistic missile defense systems.

Both sides deemed the ABM projects too expensive and ineffectual. They agreed each country could defend one site — its capital or one field of strategic missiles.

However, both Russia and the United States continued research. Congress provided \$230 million this fiscal

year and projects \$266 million in the new one starting Oct. 1 for the anti-missile missile.

"We are preserving options," explained Tate. "If anybody says: 'Deploy,' we'll be able to do it."

Tate said the Army plans to go ahead soon with an interceptor demonstration.

The system could be ready in seven or eight years, and would cost about \$6 billion to \$7 billion to deploy.

But development of the new weapon would not still the environmental controversy in Utah and Nevada over basing the MX there. The Army wants to stay with that plan, and use the "race track" basing system for the defender missiles as well.

Preservation Of Lifestyle Sought

Protest On MX Accelerates

By MONICA CARUSO
SUN Staff Writer

A grassroots movement against the proposed MX missile system is underway in Nevada and Utah and is growing more powerful every day, a leader of the movement said Tuesday.

Cynthia Baumann, a former North Las Vegas city councilman, has launched a letter-writing and word-of-mouth campaign against MX that she believes will stir up the people to fight the project.

Baumann said she opposes the defense project slated for much of eastern Nevada and western Utah because, "It's going to interfere with a way of life in Nevada that the people relish and abide by — a way of life that people moved here to enjoy to begin with."

Baumann has been a leader in the anti-MX group Nevadans Opposed to MX, more commonly known as NO MX. Recently that group joined forces with anti-MX groups in Utah and Wyoming, forming the Great Basin MX Alliance.

"The people don't realize what's coming and what a monstrosity this is because they're not being given all the facts," she said.

"I think if all the people in the three



CYNTHIA BAUMANN
... Anti-MX Leader

states (Nevada, Utah and Wyoming) would stand together and vote on this on a ballot, the people would vote against it."

Baumann has taken her case against MX to the people, she told the SUN. "Everywhere I go, I talk to people when I can about this and what it means to the state. The key to this whole thing is

to give the people the facts and allow them to make the decisions. It's their lives and their states."

When MX plans surfaced in March 1978, Baumann asked Nevada's representatives in Washington, D.C., about it. "All three of them said they weren't too concerned about it and Sen. (Howard) Cannon even told me it was only on the drawing board."

Baumann paused a moment and added, "On the drawing board? There's federal people up there right now."

World War II may be largely to blame for Baumann's deep suspicions about the MX missile system. As a young woman, Baumann fled through the streets of war-torn London to avoid the German bombs.

"I know what this is all about and I don't want my grandchildren exposed to it. I have a phobia of air raid shelters because I saw too many people buried alive."

Baumann said the Soviet Union has sophisticated satellites which will detect the missiles — no matter how they are hidden.

"I am not opposed to defense. But if they're going to play the shell game, let them play it under water."



—Art Hoppe—

An MX missile on every bus and train

In his relentless war on inflation, President Carter is grimly determined to raise the price of gasoline ten cents a gallon, cut improvements in mass public transit by \$265 million a year and spend at least \$33.8 billion for the MX mobile missile system.

All week long, I had the queasy feeling there was an inherent flaw somewhere in Mr. Carter's strategy.

Fighting rising prices by raising the price of gas certainly makes sense, I guess. And there's much to be said, I'm sure, for forcing more Americans back into their private cars by letting public transit further deteriorate. But is investing \$33.8 billion in MX mobile missiles really a hedge against inflation?

As you know, the MX is designed to baffle the Russians by placing individual missiles on "race tracks," each 15 miles long, and running them around in circles in random fashion so that the Soviets would never know where one might be at any given moment.

This description of the system has always reminded me vaguely of something else. But what? I felt if I could whip inflation, the Russians and the energy crisis in one fell swoop. I'd be a national hero.

Unfortunately, the noted budget analyst Rachele Marshall has beaten me to it. All the president need do, she says simply, is to install the MX mobile missile on our country's trains, buses and subways.

*** **

The brilliance of Analyst Marshall's concept staggers the imagination. If there ever was a system in which the vehicles ran around in circles and proceeded from hither to yon and back to hither in random fashion, it's America's mass public transit system.

Install a missile on Amtrak's Overland Limited, and the Russians, no matter how vast and competent their spy network, would never be able to predict within hours, much less seconds, what time the missile would arrive at any given

spot.

And buses! There's no reason every bus in the land couldn't tow a missile behind. Is there anything more unpredictable than if and when a bus will wander by? In San Francisco, the general manager of utilities, Richard Sklar, recently admitted he had no idea where his buses were. "All we really know," he said cheerily, "is that they go out in the morning and come back at night."

In some cities, subways actually arrive on time when they arrive at all. But from Boston to Oakland, the Russians would undeniably waste thousands of missiles attempting to blow up subway trains that had already blown up, broken down or toppled off the track.

*** **

There is, of course, the question of whether those who use public transit would welcome the installation of missiles on their trains, buses and subways. The MX system, as presently conceived, would cover 6,000 square miles of Nevada and Utah. And the residents thereof have voiced strong objections — despite an all-out Defense Department campaign to convince them of the advantages of becoming a major target area.

But city folk are more inured to danger than rural folk. Show me a New Yorker who will ride the BMT Canarsie Line after dark and I'll show you a citizen who wouldn't blink an eyelash over a lousy 100-megaton nuclear bomb. (In fact, the only problem of installing a 100-megaton missile on the BMT, as my friend Michael Harris points out, is that someone would promptly rip it off.)

So let's get to work buying \$33.8 billion worth of new trains, buses and subways to haul the MX around in aimless circles. As long as we call it a missile system and not mass public transit, Congress won't cut a nickel out of the appropriation.

That's what's wrong with the president's strategy. He just didn't get his priorities straight.

RS 4.2.1980

Hearing promised on MX submarine bases

R-J Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — Persons who advocate basing the MX missile on submarines in U.S. coastal waters were given a boost Thursday when it was learned they have been promised a hearing before President Carter.

The concept, known as SUM (a Shallow Underwater Mobile system), would deploy about 50 small, conventionally powered submarines armed with MX missiles in U.S. coastal waters. According to the experts, the submarines would be used in an area of

several hundred thousand miles — an area they claim is too large to be effectively attacked.

Two chief advocates of the system met Thursday in a closed meeting with Defense Department officials and congressional representatives.

Following the meeting, Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., disclosed the promise of a presidential hearing on the matter and declared "the final bell...has not rung" on the SUM system.

According to Santini, who attended the meeting with Rep. John Seiberling,

D-Ohio, chairman of the House Public Lands subcommittee, the experts disputed earlier Department of Defense arguments that the system would be vulnerable to tidal waves caused by nuclear detonations at sea, called the Van Dorn Effect.

Sydney D. Drell, of Stanford University, and Richard Garwin, a military technology and arms control expert, told Santini the Van Dorn Effect only occurs at depths of less than 400 feet. Their proposal would deploy the submarines in deeper water.

In a press release following the meeting Santini called for a "closer look" at the system which he said he likes.

He also added, "I was impressed that the Air Force has not...dismissed the SUM system."

It was not disclosed when

the plan will be presented to the president.

R.J. 4-4-80

Defective MX feature scrapped

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

Defense Department analysts plan to discard one of the features of the MX missile system designed to protect the system against an enemy attack, an Air Force spokesman confirmed Thursday.

However, the feature was only one of three that would protect the missiles and the other two are still being considered, said Lt. Col. Jesse Ford of the special MX office in Washington D.C.

Ford's comments were in response to an article in the April 7 issue of Newsweek.

The article states officials recently uncovered a flaw and are now "quietly abandoning the MX's dash capability — once considered the ultimate safeguard against an enemy attack — in favor of a different defense system that happens to cost \$2 billion less."

But Ford said there is nothing secret about the feature being discarded. He agreed that with the change, the proposed project could be less expensive but he could not say how accurate the \$2 billion figure was.

"From an engineering viewpoint, any time you change anything, it changes the results and the cost," he said.

Ford also said the missile project is undergoing a full scale engineering development stage during which

Air Force officials are examining and testing all facets of the system's design, looking for flaws such as this one.

In the next five years an evolution of the engineering design can be expected, he said.

Three methods of mobility were being studied to increase the system's "survivability" from attack, Ford said.

Those methods included randomly moving the missiles from shelter to shelter, continuously moving the missiles around the racetrack or loop, ducking the missiles into a shelter when there is warning of an attack, or having the missiles dash from one shelter to another without a shield after being warned of an attack, the Pentagon official explained.

The third method is the

one that has been labeled defective because defense officials noted that the Soviets could launch a small initial attack, then use spy satellites to watch which shelters the missiles "dash" to. A second attack could then be launched and the Soviets would know exactly where to strike, he said.

Ford said the other two mobility methods — ran-

dom rotation and constant circling — still are being considered.

R.J. 4-4-80

List demands Pentagon MX money policy

CARSON CITY (AP) — Apparent conflicts over federal funding to offset MX missile impacts prompted Nevada Gov. Bob List on Friday to demand the Pentagon provide a clear policy on the crucial money question.

List said he and Utah Gov. Scott Matheson have been "insistent in our demand for operation and maintenance monies" for such new services as

schools, police and fire departments required if MX is built in the two states.

"These moneys would be needed in view of the low tax base of our counties and the significant impact MX would bring," List said in a letter to William Perry, undersecretary of defense for research and engineering.

"In fact, we pressed President Carter for an assurance that in the event of (MX) deployment these monies would be provided,

and he stated that he would not favor a policy to provide such funds," List said.

But the governor said he has read news accounts quoting Air Force Maj. Mike Henshaw as telling Nevada lawmakers the Air Force would stand behind requests for impact-mitigating funding beyond the building phase.

In the past, the Pentagon had promised to pay for construction of new facili-

ties to serve up to 200,000 persons who might be drawn to eastern and central Nevada and western Utah.

But the military had balked at making promises to seek funds to pay for operation and maintenance of those services.

Henshaw qualified his remarks by saying the Air Force would support funding for such continuing costs as salaries and build-

ing maintenance until local governments are able to assume the full costs.

Even so, said List, this appears to be a "contrary policy" to what he and Utah Gov. Matheson were told earlier.

List added, "This is a significant issue, and we are entitled to have a clear policy set forth."

Maj. Henshaw works for Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker Jr., the top Air Force MX promoter. Henshaw addressed

a Nevada legislative subcommittee on Wednesday.

List and Matheson would definitely prefer Henshaw's statement be adopted as federal policy.

In a recent letter to President Carter, the two governors said Carter's reluctance to provide operating funds guarantees there will be no strong support for MX deployment in their states.

"Operating funds are an

absolute necessity in the event of deployment," the two governors wrote Carter. "We would be willing to help your staff and the Congress develop such a program, designed to be triggered only by very high levels of federal impact."

R.J. 4-5-80

Cannon aide raps sub-based MX idea

WASHINGTON (AP) — A submarine-based MX missile system probably is impractical, spokesmen for a Nevada and a Utah senator said Friday.

Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., said Thursday he thinks the submarine based missiles would be preferable to building a massive racetrack system in the Nevada and Utah deserts. And he said he had been assured by experts that major objects to the sub system were not valid.

"That's his argument versus the secretary of defense's argument," retorted Frank Krebbs, legislative assistant for military affairs to Sen.

Howard Cannon, D-Nev. "Who are you going to believe, the secretary of defense or Santini? I'd be inclined to believe the secretary of defense."

And Ed Darrell, a spokesman for Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said Hatch is "pretty much writing off" the idea of putting the missiles in submarines. He said Hatch would like to see a land-based alternative to the "racetrack" system.

Cannon has been a major supporter of the proposed \$56 billion system, although he has urged the Defense Department to look for alternatives.

Santini has been a major critic of the planned deployment of MX in Nevada, although he says he supports the need for a new missile system.

Defense officials have argued the land-based missiles are the only viable alternative because shallow submarines could be knocked out by the tidal waves created by Soviet nuclear bomb blasts in the ocean.

Santini said he has consulted with experts who dispute that notion.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown also has said the landbased system is needed in order to preserve the nation's triad defense — land, air and sea based missiles. The landbased Minutemen missiles are now considered the most vulnerable part of the triad.

R.J. 4-5-80

MX Loses Commission Vote

ELY (UPI) — The state Futures Commission, after a long discussion, has voted 9-2 to oppose building the MX missile system in Nevada.

The resolution, submitted by Greg Austin of Winnemucca, said Nevada already has 15 percent of its land being used for military purposes. It said that until the Air Force and Defense Department can clearly demonstrate the necessity of

a land-based mobile ICBM system, the commission would oppose the construction in Nevada.

Voting against the resolution were Chairman Morton Galane of Las Vegas and Sen. Lawrence Jacobsen, R-Minden. Abstaining from the vote were Betty Whitehurst of Ely and Thalia Dondero of Las Vegas. Ten other members were

absent when the vote was taken.

The commission also decided to allocate \$20,000 for another public opinion sampling of what Nevadans would like to see in the future. The commission recently completed a mail-out survey which gained 18,000 responses in which the majority felt Nevada's lifestyle would deteriorate in the future.

Robert Loveberg, project managing planner, said a professional polling firm would be hired for a telephone survey and possibly some direct interviews this summer. There would be a smaller sample size.

The second public opinion sample, Loveberg said, would be to corroborate the first survey and findings of the town hall meetings and to test public reaction on some of the tentative recommendations the commission is considering.

Anti-MX Petition Drive Begins

A Las Vegas area petition drive to halt the proposed MX missile system began here Tuesday, it was revealed by an anti-MX group spokesman.

Bill Vincent, state coordinator of Citizen Alert, told the SUN, "This will be an expression of the people's feelings against MX."

The petition was drawn up by the Great Basin MX Al-

liance, an umbrella organization for anti-MX missile groups such as Citizen Alert and Nevadans Opposed to MX (NO MX).

The petition will be circulated for 30 days in Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and possibly Arizona by members of several local anti-MX groups, Vincent said.

The petition will also be

available for signing at a No MX meeting at 7:30 p.m. on April 16 in the University Methodist Church, 4412 S. Maryland Pkwy.

Following the drive, a delegation will try to meet with Gov. Robert List to present and discuss the results of the petition, he added.

Lurie Warns About MX

The proposed MX missile system will "rob us of our manpower and building materials" while flooding Las Vegas with up to 60,000 new workers that will clog housing, schools and public services, City Commissioner Ron Lurie told a state commission meeting in Ely.

Nevada should make a concerted effort to prevent being steamrolled by the federal government, Lurie said at the Commission on the Future of Nevada meeting Monday.

"The federal machine is well-oiled and on the move. If we don't voice our shared concerns now and take some affirmative action, that machine will roll right over the top of us," the commissioner commented.

As currently planned, the MX system will not generate "one dime of property tax revenue to pay for these services," he asserted.

SUN 4-9-80

List, Geologist Dispute Air Force's MX Claims

By JEFF ADLER
SUN Staff Writer

The pros and cons of the MX missile system proposed for Nevada and Utah were aired again Wednesday as Gov. Robert List and a UNLV geology professor teamed together to dispute assertions made by an Air Force major.

Speaking first, List told those attending an afternoon luncheon sponsored by the International Consumer Credit Association that a "firm and strong defense" remains a fundamental consideration in the MX debate.

"But it is my earnest and deepest hope this country can find another way to provide for the national defense other than MX," List said.

Citing four important areas the \$33 billion MX program would impact, List suggested the Air Force go back to the drawing board to search for an alternative.

He said Nevada's land and water would be impacted as well as local economies and local governments.

Of particular concern are the state's mining

industry, ranching and farming interests and the future of recreational uses of the "state's heartland" if MX comes in, List said.

He added that as much as 50 percent of his time is devoted to the MX issue as well as that of 20 percent of his staffs' and 40 percent of the state management team's time.

The governor suggested that those opposed to the missile system pressure Nevada's congressional delegation, for it is they who will make the final decision.

"It's simply unfair to bring it in with all its ramifications," he concluded.

On the other hand, Air Force Major John Gordon, attached to the office for MX affairs in Washington, D.C., called MX "the only truly viable, cost-effective solution to the problems we have gotten ourselves into concerning our strategic balance with the USSR."

He said the MX was chosen from more than 35 alternatives studied by the military. "The purpose of MX is not an economic program, it's not a public works project, but it affects how

we will stand in the world for the next generation."

Saying the Air Force is not insensitive to the problems MX will generate, Gordon added a first report on the project's impacts will be available in July.

He explained the MX program would increase the state's population by only 10 percent of the growth experienced in Las Vegas over the last decade.

It will bring in a "young group of motivated and trained people" connected with the Air Force, Gordon said.

UNLV Professor William Fiero said their are three important considerations in evaluating the MX proposal. Those are defense, the economy and the human and physical environment.

Fiero said the racetrack concept is "ludicrous" since without a SALT II treaty the USSR could build enough nuclear warheads to destroy all 4,600 missile shelters now proposed.

Instead, he advocated placing the MX

aboard submarines, an alternative that Gordon said has proven unfeasible and more expensive than basing MX on land. Gordon said the feasibility report on a submarine-based MX would be available in the next several weeks.

Fiero said the project would promote local inflation and would encourage the labor force to abandon the tourist industry for the more lucrative jobs MX would offer. List concurred, saying farm and ranching jobs in rural areas would be severely affected since the MX would pay a higher wage than many rural employers could afford.

"The impacts are heavy," Fiero said.

Turning to water, Fiero said there is enough water to meet project needs in the state, but he added that "we would be drawing it out of our future."

"A good share of the future of Nevada would be depleted" if groundwater, which cannot be replaced, is used for the construction of MX, he said.

SUN 4-17-80

List dissatisfied there is no alternative to MX

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

Gov. Robert List and a UNLV professor repeated statements Wednesday that they are still unsatisfied with Air Force claims there is no alternative to the MX missile system.

"It is my earnest and deepest hope that the country will find a better way of dealing with national defense," List told about 300 members of the Consumer Credit Executives of South-

ern Nevada.

Bill Fiero, a UNLV geology professor who has been an outspoken critic of the system since the beginning of the Air Force's campaign to sell it to Nevadans, called the concept "ludicrous, something a first-grade class would think of." Fiero proposed the alternative of placing the missiles on submarines.

List and Fiero were two of three panelists discussing the massive defense project.

Defending the Air Force was Maj. John Gordon, aide to Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker of the special MX office in Washington D.C.

Both List and Fiero reiterated fears the MX would drain Nevada's water supply for years after the missile project is defunct, would hamper land uses such as mining, grazing and recreation, and would have negative economic effects by drawing workers away from local jobs for the high-

er-paying MX opportunities.

List and Fiero said the system would thrust thousands of persons into the rural areas and would create a boom-bust situation.

Fiero said the Air Force is correct in saying the state has sufficient water to handle the project. However, the water is mostly fossil water left over from the Ice Age and it would not be replenished at the rate it would be used, he said.

He said the result would be like depleting a bank account, which would mean "trading off the future of this town too, not just the rural areas."

List said MX-related matters consume 50 percent of his time and take up a considerable portion of the time of his staff, an MX management committee and the state MX field office. He also said he is "convinced there is a better way" to provide for national

defense and that this time could be spent better on other issues.

Gordon repeated claims that the MX was chosen as the "only truly viable and cost-effective system" to meet threats posed by the Soviet Union. He added

that "considerable detailed" study was done on 35 alternatives and 100 other options were looked at less intently, but all proved inferior to the MX.

He also stressed that it was the president, not the Air Force, who chose the MX and who said the sys-

tem should be deployed on land-based racetracks.

Gordon said the concept of placing missiles on submarines is "non-workable — period."

He added that a detailed report on that alternative will be delivered to List within the next two weeks.

Panel to grill Pentagon about MX

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A congressional subcommittee will question top Pentagon officials Thursday on the availability of key minerals and nuclear materials required to build the MX missile.

There have been recent indications the

Defense Department could be running short of the nuclear material needed to build the new weapons.

Now the House Mines and Mining subcommittee is questioning whether there are adequate supplies of minerals such as gold, titanium and cobalt that might be needed in the missiles.

Hearings have been scheduled, according to a committee aide, primarily because committee chairman Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., has been unable to get a satisfactory report otherwise.

Defense Department Undersecretary William Perry will be the administration's chief witness.

RJ 4-17-80

Site undetermined

Official explains MX memo

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A high-level Defense Department official has claimed that her internal memorandum concerning the location of the MX missile system was "misinterpreted."

Air Force Undersecretary Antonia Chayes, whose "sensitive" memo on the site selection of the MX was leaked to the public earlier this week, acknowledged Thursday the Defense Department is considering a deployment site in eastern New Mexico and eastern Texas.

She denied that the Pentagon plans to give only cursory examinations to that alternate site and said "months of work" have been spent on alternate site evaluations, although it still appears the Nevada-Utah site will be selected for the MX.

"There are several criteria that could eliminate" the other sites, Chayes said. "And if they

do, that's the end of that."

However, she said selection of the Texas-New Mexico site would involve relocating up to 10,000 families — viewed as a massive legal headache when compared with the huge amount of unoccupied federal land in Nevada and Utah.

It was learned earlier this week that Chayes notified Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen that all sites except the Nevada site could be ruled out through greatly simplified environmental impact statement procedures — a move she said in the memo would allow the Pentagon to stay on its timetable while solving the "political problems" of site selection.

The memo continued that the 1986 deployment target would be "impossible" to meet if the Defense Department is forced to undertake the "full and highly time-consuming EIS" process.

While Chayes said "almost all Nevada and

Utah land is Bureau of Land Management Land," she added that the Texas-New Mexico site contains eight to 10,000 families "that would have to be moved ... and that makes it from a legal point of view, something that we would look at."

"If there is a better alternative that affects practically nobody, then there wouldn't be any choice," she said, apparently referring to the desirability of the Nevada-Utah sites.

While Chayes said the Texas-New Mexico site looks much better today than it did two months ago, she acknowledged the Nevada-Utah site remains an odds-on favorite for the system.

"We would need a great deal of evidence — and the evidence is going the other way — to tell us that Texas and New Mexico is preferable to Nevada and Utah," she said.

Hecker to lobby for MX

OFFUTT AFB, Neb. (AP) — The Air Force is moving its top MX salesman from the field to Capitol Hill.

Air Force officials said Thursday that Lt. Gen. Guy Hecker is being reassigned to lobby for the MX in Congress, rather than in Nevada and Utah.

Recently promoted Brig. Gen. James McCarthy will take Hecker's place in Nevada. McCarthy is commander of the 93rd Bombardment Wing at Castle Air Force Base in California.

The Pentagon has not formally announced Hecker's transfer pending final clearance. But Air Force officials told members of a delegation of Nevadans touring the Strategic Air Command headquarters the official word will come soon.

Hecker has spent 18 months as the Pentagon's special assistant on MX matters — much of the time in Nevada and Utah.

RJ 4-18-80

MX missile topic of discussion

A public forum to discuss the construction of the MX missile system in Nevada is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday in UNLV's Moyer Student Union, Lounge 203.

Former assistant CIA director Herbert Scoville, Jr., will speak on "America's Greatest Construction: Can It Work?"

RJ 4-20-80

RJ 4-18-80

Weapons expert predicts MX demise



HERBERT SCOVILLE
... prefers sub bases

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

Progress in the proposed MX missile system could be halted within a year because of strong opposition from Nevada and Utah residents, a former CIA assistant director said Monday in Las Vegas.

Momentum against the land-based system has been growing in Congress as more of the weaknesses of the system are being understood by the legislators, Herbert Scoville Jr. said.

Scoville was in Las Vegas to kick off a speaking tour in which he plans to tell the military's "other side" of the MX story. He has been technical director of the armed forces special weapons project for the Defense Department and a senior scientist for the Atomic Energy Commission (forerunner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission).

Scoville said he still gives the project a 50-50

chance of survival, but there is "opposition in all corners" to the system.

"(Residents) have been a very important force. You are not taking all the Air Force is telling you for granted. You're asking questions and people are getting increasingly skeptical," he said.

He said the pressure from the opposition has put "severe brakes" on the progress of the MX plan, and although it probably will not be stopped this year, it may face its demise next year.

The weapons authority said the main reason he is against the MX project in its proposed form is because of its vulnerability.

"There is a fundamental flaw in this system. It will not provide the invulnerability it is proposed to do," he said. He added the system will be outdated before it is completed because the Soviets "can build additional missiles faster and cheaper

than we can build more shelters."

Another problem with the project is that it is an "open-ended system. There is no limit to the size of it. The Air Force could keep building more shelters as the Soviets keep building more warheads and the system could cost \$100 billion or more," he said.

A third flaw with MX is that it is only good as a first-strike system and is "no good at all" for retaliation.

"It is an incentive (for the Soviets) to launch a first strike. The U.S. does not intend to issue a first strike, but the Soviets do not see it as anything but a first strike (threat)," he said.

Scoville joined those advocating a submarine-based MX system, saying the cost was about the same as a land-based system, the submarines would not be targetable and it would be less expensive in the long run.

RJ-4-22-80

Chamber slates MX luncheon

Leaders from other states that have faced the same problems Nevada is expecting from the MX missile project are scheduled to speak Friday at a Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

"Business Looks At The MX" is the theme of the program, which will be attended by Gov. Robert List and leaders from states that have Minuteman missile installations.

"We want to learn from our visiting panelists the accurate impact of their Minuteman facilities to better comprehend the effect of the MX," said Frank Johnson, president of the chamber.

The luncheon will start at noon in the Music Hall Showroom of the Frontier Hotel. Reservations should be made by 5 p.m. Wednesday. Non-members must make their reservations in person at the chamber's office, 2301 E. Sahara Ave.

RJ-4-22-80

Two-Thirds Of Residents Oppose MX

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — A newspaper reports that two-thirds of the people who live in areas of Utah and Nevada where the proposed MX missile system would be built don't want the weapons in their back yard.

The Deseret News reported it had surveyed 400 residents of Lincoln, White Pine and Nye counties in Nevada and Millard, Juab, Beaver and Iron counties of Utah.

The poll released Monday found 65 percent of those questioned opposed to deployment of the missiles on a system of 200 giant racetracks spread across the valleys of the Great Basin.

Of those, more than 46 percent said they strongly oppose the plan, and 19 percent said they are somewhat opposed. Only 28 percent said they favored the \$33 billion weapons system

proposed by President Carter.

In addition, 48.8 percent of the residents in the seven counties said they distrust what the government has been telling them about the MX. Forty percent said they could see no advantage to the MX.

The newspaper also surveyed 400 people from all parts of Utah. That poll showed 60 per cent of the population opposed the system. Thirty percent were strongly opposed and 30 percent were somewhat opposed.

On Thursday night, the MX will be the subject of a nationally televised debate from the Salt Lake Symphony Hall. Defense experts from the Carter Administration will defend the system in a series of panel discussions with MX critics.

An anti-MX rally will be held outside the symphony hall immediately prior to the debates.

SUN 4-24-80

Local officials report on opposition to MX plan

Associated Press

Mayors and county commissioners in Utah and Nevada areas targeted for the MX missile project report wide opposition among constituents to Air Force plans to deploy the missile.

Many also have no idea how their areas will handle what the Air Force

calls "man's biggest project." And while MX money could mean a much-needed boost to local economies, most officials fear an end to the quiet, rural lifestyle they enjoy — "the basic reason why we're in southern Utah," as one said.

During the past two weeks, The As-

sociated Press surveyed 35 mayors and county commissioners in Iron, Beaver, Juab and Millard counties in Utah and Lincoln, White Pine, Eureka, Lander and Nye counties in Nevada. A December 1979 Air Force preliminary study lists those counties, with a total population of about

41,000, as having MX facilities if the project is built. Clark County has since been added to the list.

Officials were asked to judge whether constituents were for or against the project, what major impacts would be and how they would deal with the impacts. They also were asked if the Air

Force and state governments had been candid with them.

The \$66 billion MX project would hide 200 missiles among 4,600 launch sites in Utah and Nevada desert valleys. Each missile would be shuttled around a loop of 23 launch sites to avoid detection.

The project's boundaries would include about 31,000 square miles — about the size of South Carolina. The area's population could triple through the influx of construction and military workers and their families. See IMPACT, Page 8A

—IMPACT—

From Page 1A

Of 22 mayors contacted, four said most constituents favored the project, 13 said most were opposed, four said they were about equally divided, and one had no opinion. None of the 13 commissioners surveyed said most constituents favored the system, while 10 said most were opposed and three said they were equally divided.

When asked for reasons given by people against the project, responses most often involved too much growth and lifestyle changes.

"The major and by far overriding reason is the disruption of a lifestyle that those who live here have chosen," said Parowan, Utah Mayor James Robinson.

Others said people worried about losing grazing and mining lands and straining already scarce services.

"This is a small town and county," said Eureka, Nev., County Commissioner Charles Vaccaro. "Our two schools are already overcrowded. We have no room to build houses. The water sup-

ply is barely adequate for the present population. Our sewers are definitely inadequate to service additional people."

Others reasons included environmental impact, the project's safety, and doubts over the system's cost.

Leamington, Utah Mayor Richard Nielson said his constituents were "worried about being the bullseye of the target," concerned about damage to the desert and "general crowding when they're used to being in the wide-open spaces."

"We feel that if it takes as long as they think it will, by the time it is finished, it will be outdated and a great deal of money spent uselessly in upsetting our lives to no good end," Vaccaro said.

Six officials said no one they spoke to had anything good to say about MX, but others cited economic and national defense as reasons for MX supporters.

They said it is needed for national security which should be first in our nation," said Gabbs,

Nev. Mayor Reno J. Ratti.

"It could bring in lots of services the city needs," said Lynndyl, Utah, Mayor Alan Nielson. "It could breath life back into it."

"Those favoring MX feel it will save our ebbing economy," said White Pine County Commissioner Doug Hawkins. "Some also feel it would provide many good paying jobs, better schools, better housing, better roads and better recognition as an important city. Some businessmen and persons with land for sale look upon MX from the profit and possibly get-rich angle."

Asked for personal opinions, 15 said they believe America needs MX, while nine said it doesn't and 11 took no position.

But when asked if they want the MX in their areas, only 11 said yes against 22 negative answers. Thirteen said they thought any economic and defense benefits would outweigh potential problems, but 20 thought the problems would be greater. Others gave no opinion.

RJ 4-24-80

MX needs more study report says

CARSON CITY (AP) — A environmental study of "man's largest project" — the MX missile — should address 10 major areas of concern, according to the crucial Air Force "scoping" summary obtained Tuesday.

The long-awaited 20-page document, designed to narrow the scope of the Air Force's environmental study, is the product of 12 emotion-charged public hearings in Nevada and Utah and hundreds of pages of suggestions from state, local and federal officials.

The impacts of the proposed \$33 billion-\$56 billion missile system on growth, land use, water resources, public health and other broad subjects are recommended for further study in the scoping document.

But it does not address whether further study is needed on alternative sites for the MX outside of Nevada and Utah — a major demand of leaders in both states. The Air Force has said it will consider other states, although Nevada and Utah are its preferred sites.

The document also does not mention whether the final environmental study should list the specific missile sites — a demand of the states.

The states' civil defense capabilities in the event of nuclear attack, possible alternatives to the MX and the interaction of the MX with the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty are beyond the scope of the environmental study, according to the scoping document.

The document tends to stick to broad, general descriptions of the concerns raised by residents and officials of the two major states being considered for the missile system.

RJ 4-23-80

Experts Disagree On Best Defense

MX Debate Airs Arguments

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Most of the military experts and scholars debating the planned \$33 billion MX missile system Thursday agreed that the United States must take action to expand its defense capabilities. But they sharply disagreed on the best way to achieve military equality with the Soviet Union.

David L. Aaron, deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs, said the primary purpose of U.S. defense policy is to reduce the likelihood of nuclear war. He said the MX system, with its multiple-shelter approach, is the most effective way to prevent such a confrontation.

"The MX is responsive. It can deal with future threats and it also has the capacity to deter the Soviets because they will have to pile more and more strategic power into what are somewhat vulnerable end points," Aaron said.

But Dr. Herbert Scoville, former assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said the MX would increase the chances of nuclear war because the Russians would perceive the system as a first-strike weapon.

Undersecretary of Defense William Perry agreed with Aaron that MX will not threaten the security of the Russians. "The point of the system is to present the Soviet Union with an unacceptable problem," he said.

Under the Air Force proposal, 200 oval "racetracks" would be built in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada. Each track would connect 23 concrete launch sites. One missile per track would be rotated among the shelters in efforts to prevent enemy detection of any specific weapon location.

Bill Moyers, moderator of the program for PBS, asked whether the land-based multiple-shelter approach was the best way for the United States to improve its defense system.

"My opposition to the MX is that I see that it is just not a good technical solution to a serious problem," said Sidney Drell, deputy director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. "We have proposed as an idea the deployment of the MX missile on small submarines moving in near-coastal waters."

SUN 4-25-80

MX Debaters Agree: Expand, But How?

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Most of the military experts and scholars debating the planned \$33 billion MX missile system Thursday agreed that the United States must take action to expand its defense capabilities. But they sharply disagreed on the best way to achieve military equality with the Soviet Union.

David L. Aaron, deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs, said the primary purpose of U.S. defense policy is to reduce the likelihood of nuclear war. He said the MX system, with its multiple-shelter approach, is the most effective way to prevent such a confrontation.

"The MX is responsive. It can deal with future threats and it also has the capacity to deter the Soviets because they will have to pile more and more strategic power into what are somewhat vulnerable end points," Aaron said.

But Dr. Herbert Scoville, former assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said the MX would increase the chances of nuclear war because the Russians would perceive the system as a first-strike weapon.

Undersecretary of Defense William Perry agreed with Aaron that MX will not threaten the security of the Russians. "The point of the system is to present the Soviet Union with an unacceptable problem," he said.

Under the Air Force proposal, 200 oval "racetracks" would be built in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada. Each track would connect 23 concrete launch sites. One missile per track would be rotated among the shelters in efforts to prevent enemy detection of any specific weapon location.

Bill Moyers, moderator of the program for PBS, asked whether the land-based multiple-shelter approach was the best way for the United States to improve its defense system.

"My opposition to the MX is that I see that it is just not a good technical solution to a serious problem," said Sidney Drell, deputy director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. "We have proposed as an idea the deployment of the MX missile on small submarines moving in near-coastal waters."

Drell said the submarine-basing plan would give the system mobility at a much greater cost-benefit comparison than locating the missiles in land-based silos.

But Perry said the submarine-basing mode could be quickly outmoded. In the near future, the United States will be able to detect the location of all Soviet subs, he said, and there is no reason to believe the Russians will not possess that same capability.

The vocal audience, which included Govs. Scott Matheson of Utah and Robert List of Nevada, cheered, jeered and interrupted speakers throughout the debate. Spectators became particularly loud when Air Force Undersecretary Antonia Handler Chayes said the impact of MX on communities in the project area has been overstated by its opponents.

"We can plan growth," she said. "If the states and the local communities join with the federal government in planning for that growth, the benefits will not be exported. The size of the economic boom — the indirect industries and growth can be controlled."

SUN 4-25-80

MX system controversy debated on PBS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Despite booing from much of the audience and doubts expressed by other panelists, Carter Administration and Air Force officials argued in a nationally televised debate that the giant MX missile project is needed to counter Soviet nuclear strength.

The two-hour live program Thursday night, described as the first of its kind ever attempted by the Public Broadcasting System, focused on arguments for and against the \$56 billion missile system the Air Force wants to build in Nevada and Utah.

The show, moderated by journalist Bill Moyers, was beamed to more than 450 public television and radio stations across the country from the new wedge-shaped Symphony Hall here.

"The Soviets paid \$100 billion to acquire the capability

of a first nuclear strike. We must respond to that ... or the Soviets will conclude we won't take steps to defend ourselves," said panelist David E. Aaron, the president's deputy assistant for national security affairs.

But Herbert Scoville Jr., former deputy director of research for the Central Intelligence Agency, said the MX is itself a "potential first-strike weapon" and a "bad waste of our money because it does not improve our security."

He said the MX deployment plan would tempt the Soviet Union to set their missiles to "launch on warning." He said that would increase the risk of being "involved in a nuclear war due to computers."

"That's ridiculous," countered defense analyst John F. Lehman. "That logic is worthy of the Mad Hatter. I haven't heard anything so ridiculous in years."

The audience, about 1,000 fewer than the 2,800 program organizers had hoped would fill the hall, consisted mostly of MX opponents who hissed and booed Administration and Air Force officials. Before the show, about 300 persons heard folksingers, politicians and religious leaders denounce the missile system at a rally outside the hall.

Under the Air Force plan, 200 MX missiles would be shuttled among 4,600 desert shelters to avoid detection by the Soviet Union. The boundaries of the proposed MX area cover 45,000 square miles — about the size of Pennsylvania.

Area residents have voiced strong opposition, saying MX would destroy the fragile desert, end their quiet, rural lifestyle and make them prime targets for Soviet missiles.

Debate panelist Stan Albrecht, a Brigham Young Univ-

ersity sociology professor, said the area's small towns could suffer a "breakdown in community" from rapid growth and influx of construction and military personnel. He said economic benefits would "tend to be exported," while social problems would stay.

But Air Force Undersecretary Antonia Chayes said growth would not come all at once, and the federal government would aid local and state governments with planning. "We will see to it that it will be planned well," she said.

When asked if the Air Force could thoroughly study environmental effects by its November deadline for an environmental impact statement, she replied, "Yes."

But Frederic Wagner, director of Utah State University's ecology center, said that as of last week, the Air Force had not yet awarded subcontracts to begin environmental studies.

RJ 4.25.1980

MX-perts expound views on missile system

By Sherman R. Frederick
R-J City Editor

MX-perts were easy to come by Friday in Southern Nevada, expounding differing viewpoints on the missile sys-

tem at a variety of locations.

At the Frontier Hotel, the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce sponsored a panel of seven from areas near Minuteman missile sites. The panel had only good things

to say about their military neighbors and the impact the missile system has had on their hometowns.

Across the Strip at the Desert Inn Hotel, a University of Southern California international relations professor recommended improving the Minuteman system rather than building the MX.

William Van Cleave, who also served on the negotiation team for SALT I and is a Defense Department consultant, said the biggest problem with the MX as proposed is that it will not be operational until years after the United States becomes vulnerable to Soviet attack.

But if Minuteman missiles were modified, the United States would be protected from Soviet first-strike capability in about three years and cost \$20 billion or less. The MX is estimated to cost between \$33-56 billion.

Van Cleave, who Thursday participated in a debate on MX in Salt Lake City that was aired live on the PBS television show Bill Moyers Journal, was in Las Vegas for a luncheon commemorating USC's 100th birthday.

He added the idea of putting MX missiles on submarines is "incredibly stupid and has a zero chance of working."

Meanwhile, just down the street at the Clark County Flamingo Library, the national president of the Sierra Club formally announced the environmental group's opposition to the MX.

Ted Snyder said the club is not against the need for the project, but is concerned it will take 40,000 square miles of land away from other use.

He said the desert probably has the most fragile environment and could take thousands of years to restore.

A legislative campaign against the project has been started by the club and a legal avenue to halt it is being sought, he added.

Earlier in the day in North Las Vegas, the Nevada League of Cities unanimously approved a resolution opposing the racetrack basing mode of the missile system.

Carson City Supervisor Robert Brogram authored the resolution, which endorsed the national security needs of the country but rejected the proposed racetrack method as too detrimental to Nevada's economy and environment.

RJ 4-26-80

Cannon claims MX opposition plotted against him

By Tim Dahlberg
R-J Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon claimed Monday that anti-MX forces were behind a plot to discredit him through leaks to the news media.

He refused to name the persons he believes are behind the plan, but said he has turned the information over to his attorney for possible legal action.

Cannon, a strong advocate of the proposed MX missile system, has been under fire lately for allegations he used his position and knowledge of the proposed system to benefit himself and his friends financially.

"Yes I do, I absolutely do," Cannon said when asked if he believed the news reports are part of a plan to discredit him. "The contact (for the news articles) came from one of the leaders in the anti-MX program in the state."

The senator said he may pursue some unspecified action against the group, saying "that information is in the hands of my attorney now."

During the 40-minute press conference at Caesars Palace, Cannon claimed he is innocent of any wrongdoing and accused the news media of undertaking a witchhunt against him.

"There seems to be an atmosphere today in which we

are witnessing a complete departure from the principle that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty," he said. "This tactic is called by many names but none of us are immune from being forced to prove ourselves innocent of a witchhunt conducted largely in the public media."

Cannon also, for the first time, commented on his recent appearance before a Chicago grand jury investigating public corruption and organized crime.

Nevada's senior senator said he appeared voluntarily before the grand jury and answered a series of questions that he said pertained only to his efforts to buy a parcel of land in the Las Vegas Country Club.

"All of the questions of the grand jury related to those land transactions," he said.

Cannon released a statement that he said refuted allegations made against him in a recent article by the New York Times.

Cannon contended the Times article was shallow and written by a reporter who didn't know all the facts.

"It's rather interesting to me that there wasn't any further checking done in these incidents."

Meanwhile, a decision is expected to be made this week on whether to include the MX allegations in a Senate Ethics Committee probe of the senator.

RJ 4-28-80

Anti-MX group to tour 10 cities

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

— A traveling program designed to counter Air Force efforts to sell the MX missile to Utah and Nevada begins a two-week tour Monday night in Delta.

Organizers of the program, the Great Basin MX Alliance, say it will consist of a panel of experts who will look at what the alliance says are local, regional and national problems with the proposed MX "racetrack" basing system. Dubbed the "MX Road Show," the program will be held at 10 Utah and Nevada cities.

Leading the panels will be retired Navy Vice Adm. John M. Lee and retired Marine Corp Major Gen. William T. Fairbourn. Other speakers will include Native American leaders, politicians, state administrators and specialists from universities in both states.

Under the \$56 billion Air Force proposal, 200 MX missiles would be deployed among 4,800 shelters in southeastern Utah and Nevada desert valleys. Each missile would be shuttled among 23 shelters along a closed loop or "racetrack" to avoid detection by the

Soviet Union.

Area residents have voiced strong opposition to the plan, saying it could destroy the desert, end the rural lifestyle they enjoy and make them targets for Soviet missiles.

Fairbourn, who commanded the First Marine Division in Vietnam and later served as senior strategic planner for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has appeared at anti-MX rallies in the Salt Lake area. Lee is a Navy Cross recipient who served as assistant director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during negotiations for the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

Lee, a former Salt Lake City resident who now lives in St. Petersburg, Fla., said he became involved in the traveling program after being approached by members of the Washington, D.C.-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

He said the program is designed to counter Air Force presentations on the system held earlier in many of the towns, but acknowledged that, "Our little group is like the high school team going up against the

Pittsburg Steelers."

Lee said he's against the racetrack deployment plan and questions whether the missile itself is necessary. "It puts pressure on the Soviet Union to be concerned about their shorebased missiles," he said.

He said that during the SALT-II negotiations, the United States insisted on each side being allowed a new landbased missile.

RJ 4-28-80

Scientists launch anti-MX campaign

By James Kastelle
R-J Staff Writer

A group calling itself the Union of Concerned Scientists will launch a nationwide education campaign this week to present information in opposition to the deployment of the proposed MX missile system, group spokesmen said Monday in Las Vegas.

The group, a Cambridge, Mass.-based coalition of scientists, engineers and other professionals from across the United States, has sent three senior staff members to Utah and Nevada to discuss alleged weaknesses and ramifications of the MX system and its deployment.

Paul Walker, director of arms control for UCS, said the massive \$33 billion project is "one of the most dangerous and costly defense issues and thus the most needy for public comment."

Walker said the high cost of the MX, its social impacts, and its po-

tential side effects are enough to warrant additional detailed information from the Air Force and independent agencies about the system and possible alternatives.

During its swing through Nevada, the team said a seven-point list of concerns about the MX will be presented to the public, especially to citizens living in Nevada and Utah.

The concerns include such things as the MX increasing the likelihood of nuclear war, the possibility the MX is not necessary for nuclear deterrence, the fact the MX would quadruple the number of American military targets in a nuclear war to create a nuclear "sponge" out of the United States, MX's vulnerability to attack, the possibility of deployment violating an existing SALT treaty and impeding future arms-control talks, a potential harmful effect of the MX on the economy and the fact there are alternatives to the

defense system.

"The potential fallout pattern (resulting from a nuclear attack on MX bases in Nevada and Utah) could conceivably cover 1 million square miles — which is one-quarter of the land area of the United States — and affect about 80 million Americans," Walker said. "Ten to 15 percent of them would be killed."

"Not only that, but the MX may be deployed in an area just upwind of the Wheat Belt states," he said.

In the event of a nuclear attack on the MX sites, the wheat crop could be "obliterated," he said. Walker said that in 1962, military officials determined only 300 to 400 warhead were necessary to destroy 35 percent of the population and 75 percent of the industry in the Soviet Union.

"Right now we have 10,000 warheads," he said. "Do we need 2,000 warheads in addition to those

10,000, and do we really need to keep up with the Soviets?"

With improvements to the nation's submarine Trident missile system, the United States "could have a defense system just as effective as the MX at one-sixth the cost," Walker said.

He said a Trident warhead cost about \$7 million compared to \$25 million for each MX missile.

Carla Johnston, deputy executive director of UCS, said "in terms of providing a strong defense for the country, the MX is not the way to go."

"There are other ways to provide defense that are less costly and not so damaging to the public that we are trying to defend," Johnston said.

"The question is whether we re-

ally need 2,000 more warheads and whether the MX is the way to go, especially when it carries the sponge effect with it," she said.

The third member of the senior staff team, UCS's defense Defense Policy Specialist Paul Bennett, said "the danger of the MX is that it would make a nuclear war more likely."

"In terms of nuclear warheads, the United States started ahead of the Soviet Union, remains ahead and will still be ahead in 1985 even without the MX," Bennett said.

UCS, which represents 95,000 persons, grew out of the faculty membership of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the late 1960s to advocate the wise use of advanced technology for public use. The group is involved with alternate energy sources and radioactive waste disposal.

Alternative to racetrack MX studied

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Defense Department sources Monday confirmed consideration is being given to an alternative to the MX racetrack deployment system.

Defense officials are studying the grid system of missile basing as an alternative to the racetrack method favored by the Air Force, according to one source.

A second source said any changes about to be made in the basing system would have little impact on the amount of land needed for the system. That would seem to rule out an immediate switchover to the grid, which experts estimate would take about 20 percent less land than the racetrack.

The sources did say a basing-mode decision soon will be made public. The Air Force has decided, according to one source, to recommend what is known as the loading dock plan.

RJ 4-29-80

This system would require smaller, less costly shelters. The shelters would also be harder, and therefore less easily destroyed. The system would include a separate tow and transporter system to move the missiles.

The smaller vehicle would be less costly, which is the main attraction of the loading dock plan. About \$1 billion would be saved through that plan.

Exactly when the selection of the loading dock plan will be made public is not certain.

Most defense officials agree they need to know exactly what basing mode and deployment method will be used no later than July to meet the 1986 deadline to begin putting the missiles in place.

RJ 4-29-80

Senate Meeting Slated

Brown Pushing Modified MX System

RENO (UPI) — Defense Secretary Harold Brown will recommend the controversial MX "racetrack" system be modified but not scrapped in favor of one that takes much less land, it was reported Tuesday.

The matter is scheduled to come up at Wednesday's Senate Armed Services Committee meeting. Sources close to Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., said Monday there was "a very serious rumor" Brown would propose scrapping the racetrack mode in favor of the "grid" system that would cut by 20 percent the land requirements in Eastern Nevada and Western Utah.

Tuesday, however, a Washington source said Brown "has no intention of scrapping the racetrack."

"Brown will propose the racetrack be changed in size and in configuration of the missile shelters," he said. "There will be no

reduction in the 4,600 shelters, but there will be a dramatic change in the vehicle to shuttle the missile among them."

He said the changes won't reduce the amount of land required, but will reduce the cost by \$1 billion. The project, the largest construction job in history, has been estimated to cost \$56 billion before it is completed in 1990.

The Air Force says the new generation of intercontinental ballistic missile is needed to offset Soviet missile technology. The landbased missiles would complement those carried by airplanes and submarines.

The racetrack basin mode, aimed at confusing enemy observers, would shuttle a missile in and out of bunkers arranged around an oval track. The grid alternative would place the bunkers in straight lines instead of the loops, reducing land requirements because there would be fewer roads.

The Air Force says only 25 square miles of land would be needed for the actual loops, although up to 7,000 square miles could be affected in some way. Opponents say it would have a tremendous impact on the environment and small communities in

the sparsely populated region. They say it will take too long to build and will cost too much money, and that alternative basing modes such as the grid system and submarines could be put on line faster to meet a Soviet challenge.

Nevada's MX Staff Chief Quits

CARSON CITY (UPI) — Connie Ashcraft quit Monday after four months as head of Nevada's MX planning staff.

She did not say why, other than "It was a series of things and I've had enough."

The resignation came after reports of conflict between her and some members of the management committee. State Planning Coordinator Bob Hill said she had "an extremely difficult task under extremely difficult conditions."

The planning office is under the supervision of Hill, state Conservation Director Roland Westergard and Commerce Director Jim Wadhams.

Gov. Robert List said he would begin an immediate search to fill the \$40,000-a-year job. One candidate reportedly was Pete Crane, who headed the local government planning effort for Kitsap County, Wash., where the Navy built a Trident submarine base a few years ago.

SUN 4-30-80

Defense Chief Wants MX Race Track

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Defense Secretary Harold Brown said Wednesday the basic design for the proposed MX "race track" mobile missile system should be retained, but technical changes could reduce the system's expense and complexity.

A Senate armed forces subcommittee met in closed session to discuss technical modifications to the system Brown proposed in a letter to chairman John Stennis, D-Miss., of the full committee.

The Air Force wants to deploy 200 intercontinental ballistic missiles in a system of decoy launch sites spread across 45,000 square miles of desert in Utah and Nevada. The plan has produced a public and official outcry in the two states.

Each missile would be carried on a mobile launcher to any one of 23 horizontal shelters spaced 7,000 feet apart on each of the 200 "race track" courses to avoid detection by Soviet spy satellites in crisis situations.

In the letter dated Monday and released Wednesday, Brown said the MX Program Office had studied numerous design alternatives for the proposed system.

"The conclusion of these studies is that the basic design for MX should be retained," he wrote.

"Our engineering analyses identified technical refinements, however, that would reduce the expense and the complexity of the system, but would retain high levels of survivability, military operational benefits and verifiability."

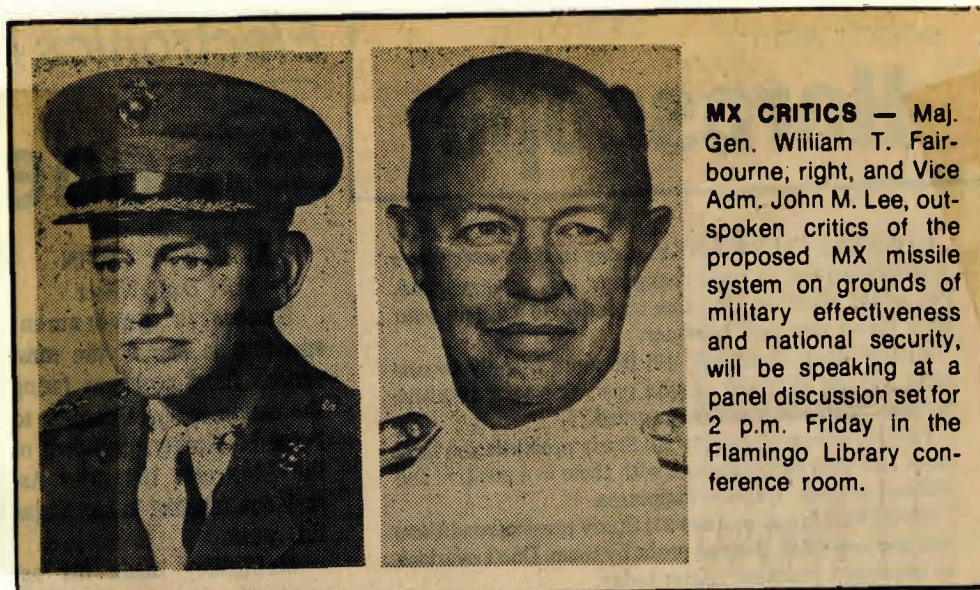
He said the modifications would be adopted immediately.

Studies show that horizontal missile shelters deployed around the proposed courses offer "significant advantages in survivability" over vertical bunkers, Brown said.

The study team, he said, also found that proposed special railroads leading from the missile assembly areas to the deployment areas could be eliminated and replaced by a lower-cost road system, and that a proposed giant missile transporter could be replaced by a smaller model.

"We believe these design improvements improve the survivability of the system," Brown said.

SUN 5-1-80



MX CRITICS — Maj. Gen. William T. Fairbourne, right, and Vice Adm. John M. Lee, outspoken critics of the proposed MX missile system on grounds of military effectiveness and national security, will be speaking at a panel discussion set for 2 p.m. Friday in the Flamingo Library conference room.

JUN 5-2-80

Ex-military to debate MX plans

Two former military officials will head a panel of speakers opposed to the MX missile system during a public meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Flamingo branch of the Clark County Library.

Maj. Gen. William T. Fairbourne, former commander of the 1st Marine Division and director of Plans and Policies for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Navy Vice Adm. John M. Lee, former director of planning staff for the assistant secretary of defense, will head the discussion.

Other panel members include Richard Prince, a Caliente teacher, and Phil Swain, farm manager at the Moapa Indian Reservation.

The panel, sponsored by the Great Basin MX Alliance, is on a 10-day tour of Nevada and Utah, making stops in towns where Air Force officials recently held hearings to gather information for an environmental impact statement on the MX missile system.

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Three high-level Defense Department officials urged Congress to begin construction of the MX missile system before opponents try to use delaying tactics to kill the project.

Warning against the possibility of "paralysis by analysis," Defense Department Undersecretary William Perry told the House Armed Services Committee those against construction of the defense project will try to do it in by throwing roadblocks at it.

"I believe we're ready to stop talking and start building the system," Perry said. "I deeply believe that the national security of this country depends on this system. We're ready to go."

Perry joined Air Force Undersecretary Antonia Chayes and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen Jr. in pushing to get construction under way on the system.

"We have muddled about in this matter too long," Allen said. "National security needs your support in this matter and we need to

move on."

Chayes, who attracted publicity in April when a memorandum was leaked in which she told Allen how environmental studies could be hurried to solidify selection of the Nevada-Utah deployment site, insisted "We are under a very tight series of deadlines."

However, she told the congressional panel she believed the Air Force could meet its 1986 deployment target date.

Chayes said she anticipates several court battles over the project, but said she did not believe litigation would push back the deployment date.

She also said the Defense Department is preparing for what she described as the next "major step" on the project — withdrawal of federal land for the missile site.

Chayes did not budge from the stand she took several days ago when she denied other missile sites were underhandedly ruled out in favor of the Nevada-Utah site.

But while she insisted the only other possible site, a

triangle in the Texas panhandle and eastern New Mexico, remains a candidate, her testimony and that of Perry and Allen hinted the Pentagon is leaning heavily toward the Nevada desert.

Chayes and Perry insisted environmental concerns of the system are being dealt with, and Chayes pointed to the Air Force's perfect track record of defending its environmental impact statements in court.

She said the Air Force "is considering" splitting the missiles between the two possible sites, although it is the military's position that such a move would add to the cost of the project — almost to a prohibitive level.

Another theory considered by the Air Force but discarded due to logistical hurdles was to dispatch the missiles into "pockets" throughout the country, but Chayes said the political questions of site location are no longer very important.

"It cuts both ways," she said, explaining there are political advantages and disadvantages to spreading

the missiles out and to concentrating them at a site such as Nevada.

"We will gain political acceptance because, basically, our country is patriotic," she said.

Nevertheless, several congressmen advised the Pentagon trio to brush up on their public relations as they approach the difficult task of selling the 200-missile, 4,600-shelter project to the American public.

While Chayes, Perry and Allen reiterated the need to speed up congressional action, acting Committee Chairman Richard Ichord, D-Mo., warned them of the inevitable political problems ahead.

"My concern is that we have another B-1," Ichord said, referring to the Pentagon's ill-fated bomber project.

"I don't think you are going to get a decision out of this body this year. I think you should, but I don't think you will."

RJ 5-2-80

Leavitt attacks List on MX

By Tim Dahlberg
R-J Staff Writer

ELKO - Accusing Gov. Robert List of "acting like Chicken Little" and "scaring the hell out of people," Lt. Gov. Myron Leavitt on Friday chastised the governor for his stands on tax relief and the proposed MX Missile system.

In a keynote speech before the state Democratic Convention, Leavitt repeated his unconditional support of Question 6 and came out in favor of the MX.

Although citing "real problems" that could develop as a result of the missile system, Leavitt contended the economic benefits far outweigh any environmental or social problems that would be caused by the MX.

"There are some real problems to be solved, the impact upon our environment and our lifestyles, the need for large quantities of our water," he said. "But we can solve these problems with federal money and proper planning."

Leavitt claimed List has been inconsistent in his stance on the MX, and has used scare tactics to warn Nevadans about the dangers of building the system in the state.

"We are not going to accomplish anything with a governor who insists on traveling around the state acting like Chicken Little, proclaiming the sky is falling and scaring the hell out of people," he told delegates attending the conclave.

The lieutenant governor, who has frequently been at odds with List, also took the opportunity to blast him for switching sides on issues, particularly the tax slashing Question 6.

"I now read where Mr. List is taking another look at Question 6, that it wouldn't be so bad after all. Some say he is beginning to see the light. I say he is beginning to feel the heat," said Leavitt.

"There is a lesson to be learned here. Don't expect the governor to be on just one side of an issue when two will do."

Leavitt also noted the criticism he had received for his vocal opposition to List.

"Your lieutenant governor has been accused of not working in harmony with the present governor... This is so. It is tough to work with someone who keeps changing directions and landing on both sides of an issue at the same time."

Leavitt's speech kicked off the three-day Democratic State Convention, which is expected to draw some 700 Democrats from around the state to Elko's new convention center.

U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon also spoke briefly to the convention in a telephone address.

Liberal planks in a proposed Democratic Party platform came under fire — as expected — as the delegates gathered Friday for their state convention.

Former Gov. Grant Sawyer, a co-chairman of Democrats' platform committee, warned other panel members that fights were likely over plans supporting the Equal Rights Amendment and opposing a conservative family protection act in Congress.

There was also concern over a proposed anti-MX missile plank and another plank to support Nevada's Sagebrush Rebellion.

The proposals were listed on a plan being used by the platform committee only as a "starting point" for discussions, Chairman Sam McMullen of Reno said.

However, the controversial proposals all had been left out of a middle-of-the-road platform from Clark County — a platform supported by Sawyer partly in order to head off a looming floor fight on Saturday.

RJ 5-3-80

List wants MX limited to 100 in Nevada, Utah

CARSON CITY (AP) — The proposed MX missile system should be limited to 50 missiles each in Nevada and Utah until further studies are conducted, Gov. Robert List said Friday.

List said the proposal would cover national defense needs while permitting study of placing the rest of the 200-missile system in other states or regions. Nevada and Utah are the Air Force's favored sites.

List urged the president and Congress to limit initial construction of the \$31.8 billion system "if worse comes to worse and our states are chosen as sites."

"I remain unconvinced that Nevada and Utah should accept the system without more substantive answers from the Defense Department with respect to adequate time for planning and the availability of water resources," List said in a press release.

The governor said he plans to discuss his proposal with the administration and members of Congress in the next few days.

As currently proposed, the MX system would deploy 200 missiles, each shuttling among 23 silos to confuse attackers. Nevada

would have an estimated 130 of the missiles.

"Defense Department and administration officials have maintained that the mid-1980s will present a serious threat to the United States because of a dramatic buildup in Soviet strategic military forces," List noted.

"They also maintain we must have some MX missiles on line with operating capability by mid-1986 to prevent the vulnerability of our strategic forces."

List said his proposal would take care of that while "allowing time for a thor-

ough and thoughtful examination of future deployment decisions."

The Pentagon is studying other possible sites. But it has expressed concern that if a full environmental impact statement — such as the one under way in Nevada and Utah — is required for other sites, it would be impossible to meet the defense timetable.

RJ 5-3-80

Ex-military officers attack MX project

By James Kastelic
R-J Staff Writer

The Carter administration is "going in the wrong direction" with its decision to use the MX missile as a defense system for the United States, two former high-ranking military officers said Friday in Las Vegas.

The massive \$33 billion project would seriously destabilize current defense systems because it would give the Soviet Union the upper hand in nuclear warfare, the officials said.

Maj. Gen. William Fairbourne, former commander of the 1st Marine Division and director of Plans and Policies for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Vice Adm. John Lee, former director of planning staff for the assistant defense secretary, spoke during a press conference at the Flamingo branch of the Clark County Library.

Both officials are speaking as part of a 10-day anti-MX tour of Nevada and Utah towns, sponsored by the Great Basin MX Alliance.

Lee said the MX was a "potentially vulnerable system that is not set up to cure the problem it is supposed to cure."

"The design of it is based on the enforceability of SALT II," Lee said, noting the anti-nuclear arms treaty would be dissolved by the time the MX was scheduled for deployment.

He said development of the MX would lead to an "open-ended, sky's-the-limit arms race with the Soviets," because the United States "presumably" would increase its number of nuclear warheads each time the Soviet Union did.

He also said the defense system was in conflict with the United States' "penetration concept," because this country would be forced to react to Soviet threats every time

the Russians increased their stockpile of nuclear arms instead of taking the attack initiative. The United States should have a first-strike capability, he said.

"Nothing would be more absurd than to set ourselves up for fundamental reaction," Lee said. "And the assumption that we can beat them (Soviets) at deception games is absurd."

Lee advocated the development of the shallow underwater mobile (SUM) system for defense purposes, saying with it the United States could build what it needed and still be prepared for any type of Soviet attack.

Fairbourne echoed Lee's concerns about the Soviet attack initiative, saying "this proposed configuration passes the strategic initiative to the Soviet Union without giving any compensatory benefits to the United States."

By developing the hidden-missile MX system rather

than a more mobile one, "We give (the Soviet Union) the initiative to call the shots, and that would put us in the position where we'd have to respond," Fairbourne said. "We'd be on the defensive all the time."

He said there were other defense system alternatives that could be "exploited and explored," including the SUM system and what he termed "island deployment."

Fairbourne explained island deployment would consist of putting missiles on uninhabited Pacific Ocean islands controlled by the United States. There they would be close to the Soviet Union for attack purposes and would be far enough away from the American mainland in the event of a Soviet nuclear attack.

The Russians presumably would attack the missiles first in time of nuclear war, which would alert American officials on the mainland of impending disaster.

Announcement of new MX plan 'is imminent'

RENO (AP) — Formal announcement the Air Force has dropped the "racetrack" basing mode for the MX missile in favor of a grid system probably "is imminent," an Air Force colonel said Friday.

Col. Lawrence Molnar, of the Air Force missile office at Norton Air Force Base, also said the Air Force is continuing to study splitting the proposed nuclear missile system rather than putting it all in Nevada and Utah.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, in a letter to Congress, announced this week the Pentagon has redrawn plans for the \$33.8 billion mobile missile system, which would cut \$2 billion from its cost and reduce its impact on the land.

MX proposals to date have involved placing 200 missiles upon 200 "racetrack" loops, each with 23 silos to confuse enemy attackers.

Pentagon officials indicated the new plans might

call for replacing the highly controversial loop road system with straight line roads or grids of roads.

Military contractor Don Gray, appearing with Molnar, said the silos would be placed at the intersections of the roads. He called the development "a refinement" of past plans.

Sens. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., and Jake Garn, R-Utah, said Thursday they favor the grid system over the racetrack version. Both also have pressed to have

other states share the system.

The two senators are scheduled to hold hearings on the feasibility of the MX system next week, hearing from Air Force and Administration officials on Tuesday and discussing alternatives to the system on Wednesday.

In a talk to the Nevada Chapter of the American Public Works Association meeting in Reno, Molnar hammered away at the need for MX and ridiculed

some proposed alternatives to it.

Molnar said a few critics of the system were opposing the results of years of experience and testing by Pentagon officials.

He said vertical shelters — advocated by some hard-line defense backers — had been abandoned partly because "we did not have good success in tests" designed to see if they could withstand explosions such as a nuclear attack.

Molnar said private contractors had quickly and cheaply solved problems during earlier MX construction tests, showing him actual construction of the system could be carried out within its budget and without causing the problems cited by critics.

RJ 5-3-80

Texas-New Mexico Also Under Consideration

Air Force Re-Thinking Its MX Plans

CARSON CITY, Nev. (UPI) — The Air Force has discarded potential sites in California, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska for building the controversial M-X Missile system, it was disclosed Tuesday.

An Air Force document, released by Gov. Robert List, said it still preferred the Utah-Nevada region but it would do a full environmental impact study on the possibility of locating it in the Southern High Plains of Texas-New Mexico.

List, who is fighting building the \$56 billion system in Nevada, said this was good news that the Air Force would give full consideration to another site. He said he had expected only a cursory glance by the Air Force.

The Air Force report said, however, the population density in the West Texas-New Mexico area may present complications for security. And it said about 15 percent of that area was close to the Mexico border where sensors could be placed to detect the location of the missiles.

"There is concern at the present time with seismic sensors which sense minute shocks in the earth caused by the

movement of heavy objects over the surface," said the document.

The Air Force earlier Tuesday it has scrapped its plan in which the missiles would be moved around a race track of silos and secretly placed in one of them.

There is also the concern that radio communications could be jammed by the enemy from places in Mexico or off-shore California.

Related Stories, Page 5

In talking about the Utah-Nevada site, the Air Force said the proposed siting would not be near any major population centers and the seismic sensors would be too far away to work.

The Air Force rejected the Northern High Plains area of Colorado-Kansas-Nebraska because it has many military bases, already high priority targets of the Soviet Union. A

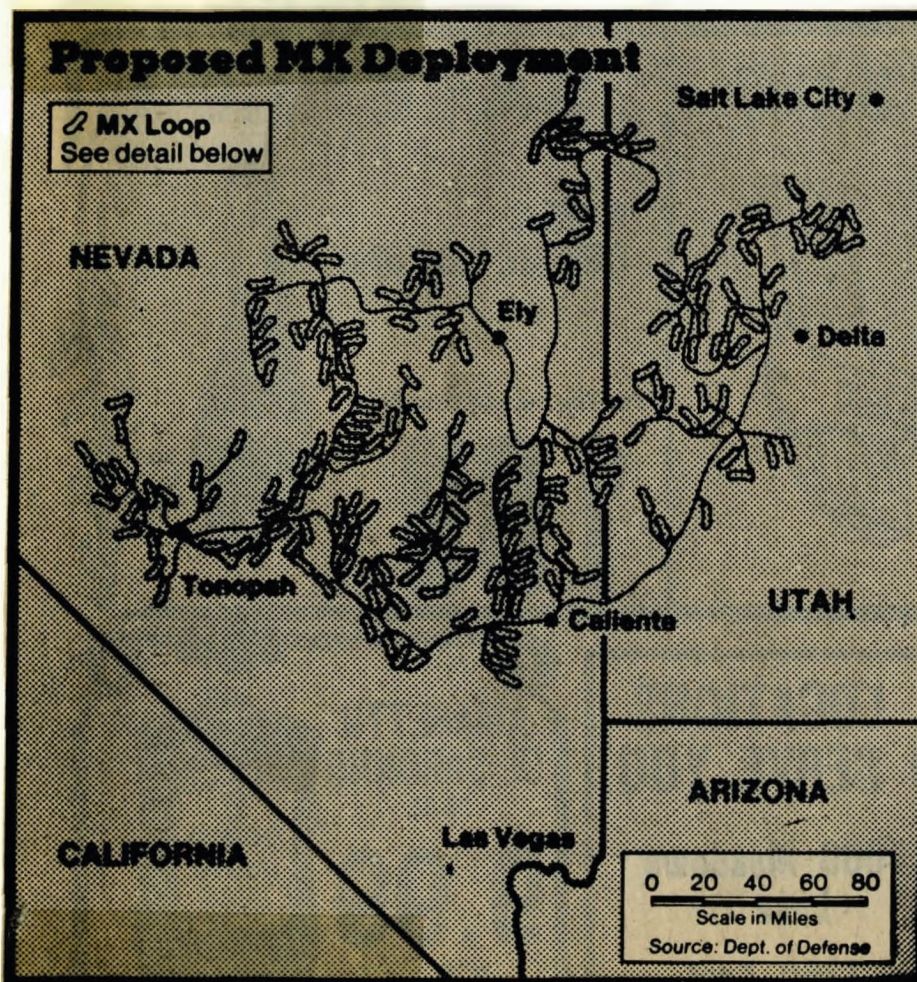
heavy missile attack on the existing bases in those areas would hamper operation of the proposed MX-system, said the Air Force.

The Mojave Desert in California was judged unacceptable because it was too close to the border of Mexico and was within 200 nautical miles of the coast. The site would be within distances for jamming of communications or location of the sensors, said the Air Force.

The Highlands of Arizona-New Mexico was also rejected because it was too close to the International border. The Sonoran Desert in Western Arizona was also found unacceptable because it was too near the population centers of Tucson, Yuma and Phoenix.

Gov. List said the decision by the Air Force to consider Texas-New Mexico was a "highly significant development." He said this could mean that the system could be spread out over four states rather than just Nevada and Utah.

SUN 5-7-80



Linear System To Use Less Land

MX Race Track Mode Dead

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Defense Secretary Harold Brown Tuesday ruled out a controversial "race track" basing mode for the \$33 billion MX missile system in favor of a stretched-out "linear" alternative that may be cheaper and use less land.

"I see no virtue in the closed-loop system," Brown told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction.

"If you wish to say the race track is dead, then go ahead."

The Air Force chose the closed-loop basing method, under which 4,600 hardened shelters would have been built on 200 sites in remote areas of Utah and Arizona to house the proposed mobile intercontinental nuclear missiles.

Each site would have had 23 shelters positioned along a 1 1/2 mile "race track." One MX missile would have been assigned to each site and hauled at random around the loop by

a special transporter for concealed deployment.

With such a system, military planners figured the Soviets would have to hit all 4,600 shelters accurately to make sure all 200 missiles were destroyed.

Brown said he favors a linear alternative instead. It would include the same number of shelters and missiles, but the shelters for each site would be strung out along a single road or a system of parallel roads in valleys.

William Perry, defense under-secretary for research and engineering, testified the linear method would save up to \$2 billion, because railroad spurs at each site could be eliminated and the shelters and missile transporters made smaller.

The subcommittee, holding two days of hearings into the MX, did not appear won over by the idea and members said they wanted to hear more about possible alternatives.

Strong concern about the en-

vironmental and socio-economic impacts of the scheme, described as "the largest public works project in the history of man," has been voiced by Sens. Jake Garn, R-Utah, and Paul Laxalt, R-Nevada, who want the MX project modified or divided among more than their two states.

At Tuesday's hearing, Garn read a letter he said Brown had written him a week ago and quoted the defense secretary saying: "The race track as originally proposed is no longer a viable alternative and we'll proceed on a linear method."

In Carson City, Nev., Gov. Robert List said he was pleased the Pentagon is dropping the race track basing mode, but said "it doesn't solve all our problems." He said the scope of the entire project should be reduced.

Brown said intensive studies have shown that a system of multiple protective structures is the "most survivable and effective MX

basing option among the dozens conceived and studied."

"The most disturbing feature of the continuing Soviet strategic buildup is that our Minuteman ICBM force, based in hardened silos, will soon lose its ability to survive a nuclear attack," he said.

Some of the options considered for basing the MX missiles have included concealing the missiles in covered trenches, placing them in aircraft or on miniature submarines.

The first MX missile is now scheduled for test flight in 1983 with some operational capability in 1986 and full operational capability by 1989.

Air Force witnesses said the MX system would require a combined total of between 25,000 to 30,000 square miles under the linear basing system — compared to the 9,000 square miles in seven states now occupied by the Minuteman fixed silos.

SUN 5-7-80

Scrapping Of Missile Racetrack Plan Pleases List

Nevada Gov. Robert List said Tuesday he was pleased to hear the proposed racetrack basing mode for the MX missile had been scrapped.

"I'm very pleased," List said. "Dropping the racetrack is significant, but it doesn't solve all our problems."

The governor's comments came in response to Defense Secretary Harold Brown's disclosure that the racetrack concept is "dead." Brown

was testifying before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction.

List, in a prepared statement, went on to say that "we are finally beginning to see some results from all the hard work Gov. Matheson (of Utah) and I have been doing to point out to the administration the enormous damage that would follow from racetrack deployment."

He said the linear deploy-

ment scheme now being considered would "eliminate the necessity for some 2,000 miles of road and reduce the number of valleys required for basing by up to 20 percent."

Also, the alternative basing mode would lessen the impact projected for construction, materials and services, List continued.

An MX spokesman in Washington, D.C., however, said he was unable to project what kind of land or dollar savings would be realized by

the linear system of missile deployment.

"We have no specific answers on land savings," Brig. Gen. James McCarthy, special assistant for MX matters, said from his Pentagon office. "This represents a change of concept and that's why we don't have specifics."

McCarthy explained that a linear deployment of the MX would consist of the same 23 shelters, only constructed in a straight line rather than

around a "racetrack."

He said linear deployment provides for "more flexibility in layout and a more effective land-use pattern."

The missile itself would still be transported from shelter to shelter in rubber-tired vehicles and housed in horizontal shelters, McCarthy continued.

He said another reason for the decision to abandon the racetrack mode was an "operational" decision to eliminate the concept of a

"shelter to shelter dash" in case of a Soviet attack. The dash concept involved moving the missile to another shelter once enemy missiles had been launched.

McCarthy also said the change to linear basing could potentially increase the number of "lines" placed in a desert valley.

He said a more complete

review of the linear deployment scheme should be available sometime in July, when a draft of the environmental impact statement on MX is expected.

SUN 5-7-80

Utahans Encouraged By MX Change

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Utah officials say the Defense Department's decision to scrap the "race track" deployment mode for MX missiles in favor of a "grid" system is not a significant change in the proposal.

"It's a step in the right direction," Gov. Scott Matheson said Tuesday. "I think that getting rid of the race track system is a positive beginning — but it's not something that makes the whole thing rosey."

Matheson has not decided whether to oppose or endorse construction of the MX missile system in Utah and Nevada. He said he will make a decision on the issue in mid-May.

State Sen. Frances Farley, D-Salt Lake, a leading MX opponent, said the change in basing mode "doesn't make any real difference."

"My concern is that people will think this is some kind of meaningful change,

and it isn't," she said. "The amount of land and construction required for the grid system is about the same as it would be for a race track system. I don't think the grid is acceptable to anyone opposed to the race track."

Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Defense Under-

secretary Dr. William Perry Tuesday told a U.S. Senate subcommittee that they consider the race track concept "dead."

Perry said the Air Force had decided a grid deployment mode, which would use a system of "linear" roads to

interconnect 4,600 missile bunkers in the Great Basin, would be \$2 billion cheaper than a race track system.

He said the grid mode would also be less environmentally damaging than a race track system. And he said the race track mode has

no strategic advantages over a grid layout.

The race track system would have involved 200 massive, closed-loop roads, with 23 missile shelters clustered around each loop. Only one missile would have been deployed at each race track.

SUN 5-7-80

MX Session Turned Down

CARSON CITY (UPI) — The Legislative Commission Wednesday rejected a request suggesting a special session of the Legislature be called to consider the MX problem.

The request came from Assemblyman Tod Bedrosian, D-Reno, who proposed asking Gov. Robert List to convene a special meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to deny the suggestion.

SUN 5-7-80

MX system falls short of U.S. defense needs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate subcommittee was told Wednesday that the proposed MX mobile missile system appears to fall short of what the United States needs for an effective defense.

Witnesses told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee that while new defense systems are needed, the MX may not fill the bill.

The criticisms were offered by retired Navy Adm. Thomas Moorer, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; retired Army Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and Dr. William R. Van Cleave, director of defense and strategic studies at the University of Southern California.

The three agreed with Pentagon officials that present U.S. missile forces are becoming vulnerable to Soviet missiles. But they didn't agree on the answer.

Moorer suggested that the MX be shifted to submarine launchers.

"It's impossible to target a mobile force at sea on schedule," Moorer said. "The ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) that are fixed in the middle of the country can be targeted 10 years in advance."

Related story, Page 12A

But Graham said the new U.S. defense effort should concentrate on putting heat-seeking anti-ballistic missiles in orbit, where they can destroy Soviet missiles before they ever reach U.S. airspace.

"If the picket lines of the United States were in space, the Soviets would be faced with a problem beyond their technical capability," Graham said.

And Van Cleave said that while the MX may turn out to be a long-term solution, im-

mediate defense requirements should persuade the United States to concentrate on improving Minuteman missiles and redeploying them in abandoned missile silos.

The testimony followed by a day appearances by defense officials led by Defense Secretary Harold Brown. They argued that time is getting short for Congress to give its approval to an MX program.

They said congressional inaction on a basic design beyond this fall, when environmental impact statements on possible MX sites will be ready, could delay the 1982 target for construction to begin.

And that, the officials said, would mean that much of the MX would still be under construction after the aging Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile system becomes dangerously vulnerable to Soviet attack.

RS 5.7.1980

Officials unsatisfied with MX changes

RENO (AP) — The switch from a "racetrack" to a "dragstrip" for the MX missile isn't change enough for three Nevada leaders. But Sen. Howard Cannon says it's all they're likely to get.

In Senate hearings Tuesday, Defense Secretary Harold Brown confirmed that the Pentagon has abandoned the so-called "racetrack" system for the largest public works project in history. That system called for putting 200 missiles on individual loop roads, each with 23 silos.

Instead, the missiles would be placed on a grid pattern along straight roads, chopping the land and road needs of the system by an estimated 20 percent. Smaller shelters also would be used.

The cost of the system would be cut an estimated \$2 billion, to \$31.8 billion. The Pentagon says the MX is needed to prevent the Soviets from being able to wipe out all U.S. ground-launched nuclear missiles in a single strike.

Gov. Robert List said the changes show that the Pentagon has been listening to complaints. And Sen. Paul Laxalt R-Nev., called it "a step in the right direction."

But List said he still opposes putting the massive nuclear missile system in Nevada and at least wants states other than Nevada and Utah to get part of it.

Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., said Nevada is "still faced with the ominous prospect of hundreds of missiles, thousand of miles of roads and a tremendous drain on our resources."

MX opponent says grid plan even worse

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An MX missile opponent says the Army's plan to base the massive system on a grid rather than "racetracks" strengthens opposition to the system.

Stanley Holmes, spokesman for the MX Information Center in Salt Lake City, said land-based missiles are "outmoded in an unrestricted arms race because the

Soviet Union can load warheads into SS-18 missiles as fast as we can build racetracks or grids."

Holmes acknowledged the change may reflect some response to public opposition to the project.

But he said the grid would allow expansion far beyond 4,600 launch sites.

25 5.7. 1980

Racetrack for MX scrapped

By Terry Wade
R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department officially announced Tuesday that the racetrack method for deploying the MX missile has been scrapped.

During hearings Tuesday morning before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, top defense officials said the racetrack configuration is no longer considered the most efficient and necessary method for deploying the missile.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown told Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., a critic of the racetrack and the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, "If you want to say it is dead, you'd be right."

Brown said changes announced last week in the missile basing mode left "no great virtue in closing the system at the other end."

Brown added, "The linear system makes more sense" and acknowledged that it would save both land and money. Some experts predict the linear system would take as much as 20 percent less land than the 40,000 square miles needed for the racetrack.

The racetrack basing mode called for 200 loops or racetracks as they have come to be called to be built in the Great Basin area of eastern Nevada and Western Utah.

Each racetrack would consist of several silos in which one missile would be shuttled back and forth in shell-game fashion.

The linear basing mode operates on the same shell-game theory, but the road that connects the silos would be open-ended.

Brown told the subcommittee that the Carter administration is committed to the MX and the president is "firmly committed" to the need for the missile system.

Laxalt had difficulty getting a commitment from Brown on the amount of land that would be withdrawn from multiple use. Laxalt expressed concern that once the system is constructed the military will want to take more than the 25 square miles they now say will be fenced off from the public.

RJ 5-7-80

RJ 5-6-80

RJ 5-7-80

Sea-based MX system urged at Senate hearing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Proposals to shift the controversial MX mobile missile system to submarines or surface ships off the U.S. coast were presented to a Senate subcommittee Wednesday.

Witnesses, including high-ranking retired military officers and scientists specializing in defense issues, told the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on military construction that plans to deploy the MX in the Western deserts carry serious flaws.

"It's impossible to target a mobile force at sea on schedule," said retired Adm. Thomas Moorer, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "The ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles) that are fixed in the middle of the country can be targeted 10 years in advance."

Moorer and his colleagues followed a day of testimony by Pentagon officials, who argued that the land-based MX design is virtually complete

Nevada news

and should be approved by Congress.

As envisioned by the Pentagon, the MX system would put 200 missiles on mobile launchers and shuttle them among 4,600 hardened shelters, most likely in the desert valleys of Utah and Nevada.

By shuttling real and simulated missiles among the shelters, the Pentagon says, Soviet spy satellites could not tell where the real missiles are, making it virtually impossible to destroy them in a Soviet attack.

But the Senate subcommittee was told Wednesday that, while it's true present U.S. missile forces are becoming vulnerable to Soviet missiles, the MX is not necessarily the answer.

The MX could be targeted just as the present Minuteman fleet, the panel was told.

Moorer and others said a sea-based system would be better, most likely in small, quiet submarines carrying two to four missiles each that would stay relatively close to the U.S. coastline.

"The only significant difference from the MX missiles on land will be that the mini-submarine missiles cannot be located and are thus not targetable, so their potential vulnerability is much less," said Herbert Scoville Jr., president of the Arms Control Association.

"Diversity in strategic forces will be maintained even though two legs of

the new triad will be at sea," he said. "There is nothing sacred about a triad which requires one leg to be on land, one at sea and one in the air."

And Dr. Sidney Drell of Stanford University, a consultant to the National Security Council, said fears that such a system could be vulnerable to artificial "tidal waves" created by Soviet nuclear blasts in the water are groundless. He said that is a hazard only in waters less than 400 feet deep, while the subs would be based in deeper water.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham said the new U.S. defense effort should concentrate on putting heat-seeking antiballistic missiles in orbit, where they can destroy Soviet missiles before they ever reach U.S. airspace.

"If the picket lines of the United States were in space, the Soviets would be faced with a problem beyond their technical capability," Graham said.

Anti-MX forces take credit

A spokesman for anti-MX missile forces claimed credit Wednesday for forcing the Pentagon to scrap the "racetrack" basing mode for the proposed missile system and said the group would continue to oppose locating the MX in Nevada and Utah.

"We forced the Department of Defense to kill the racetracks and we will oppose the loading dock, linear or grid proposal, whatever they want to call it, just as strongly," said Bill Vincent, Nevada state coordinator for Citizen Alert. The group is a member of the Great Basin MX Alliance, a two-state organization of anti-MX forces.

Vincent said the Pentagon had not addressed any of the objections raised by the alliance

and said that in the event of a nuclear attack Nevada and Utah "would still be a sponge, as the Air Force described us."

Vincent said the \$50 billion MX system, which features missiles that could be moved from one shelter to another to avoid enemy detection, "would still be obsolete by the time it is completed" and would be "easily vulnerable to enemy action."

He said the social pressures caused by thousands of new workers who would come to the two largely rural states to build and operate the MX "would be no less under the new deployment plan than under the old."

Meanwhile in Washington, Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., said Wednesday he was encouraged by the two days of Senate

Appropriations hearings, which resulted in Pentagon promises that the "racetrack" system is dead, that the door is not closed on placing most of the missiles away from Nevada and that the impact on communities will be kept to a minimum.

"We will continue pushing for fewer missiles in Nevada, Laxalt said. "Obviously there may be problems with the added costs, as well as political problems in selling the idea to other states."

Laxalt said the Air Force pledged to discourage MX workers from bringing their families and promised to set up work camps for them. Those steps might reduce the boom-and-bust impact on the state's lifestyle and should reduce the service load on

local communities, Laxalt said.

Laxalt also said the Defense Department promised to safeguard Nevada's interest by writing them into law. Defense Secretary Harold Brown promised that all land outside actual missile sites would be open to the public at all times.

MX study slowdown urged by governor

ELY (AP) — Gov. Robert List said Saturday the Air Force must slow down work on a study of the environmental impacts of the massive MX missile system which could be located in Nevada and Utah.

List released a letter to William J. Perry, undersecretary of defense, saying that the environmental impact statement required on MX should be issued only after it addresses all public concerns and fulfills federal requirements for such studies.

List, in separate comments to the Nevada State Press Association, said a draft environmental report is scheduled for release July 18 and a final statement is expected on Nov. 9. That means public comment can be turned in between July and early October.

Related stories, Page 4A

But List said the review period on the \$56 billion MX system is "totally inadequate for our state to intelligently respond."

List said the time limits for public comment should be extended until April 1, 1981 for what has been described as man's largest construction project.

In his letter to Perry, List said, "Because of the size of the project and the proposed expansive deployment area within both Nevada and Utah, there is the extreme potential for harm to both the natural and human environment."

List said the scope of the project "is so large that regional and nationwide impacts are also probable just from labor, construction material and inflation pressures.

"Therefore it is paramount that our citizens be given ample opportunity to comment on a project which could so drastically change their lives."

General still pushing MX

ELY (AP) — The massive MX missile system remains a badly needed defense project despite the "technological filibuster" mounted by critics, the Air Force's top MX advocate said Saturday.

Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker Jr. also told the Nevada State Press Association that the \$56 billion project wouldn't result in an immediate tie-up of vast stretches of central and eastern Nevada land.

Hecker said one plan would be to withdraw from public access 40 acre parcels in individual valleys to determine whether they're suitable for MX missile shelters.

If found unsuitable, the land would be turned back to federal

agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, and the Air Force would go on to the next potential site, he said.

That would ensure only a minimum amount of land is restricted, Hecker said, adding that the recently announced change from the controversial MX racetrack mode to a grid system would require less land for the entire project.

He said the Air force still hopes to use no more than 25 square miles of fenced-off land for the 4,600 shelters. A total of 200 missiles would be scattered among those shelters. About 80 miles of roadway linking the sites would be required.

Hecker said some critics of MX seem to say it's "acceptable to be inferior" to the Soviet Union. He was particularly critical of the "technological filibuster" mounted by critics who oppose "any improvement" in defense efforts. Hecker also was critical of national press attention given to these critics.

Hecker conceded the Air Force made a "tactical error" in first insisting that the entire MX missile system be located in Nevada and Utah. He said the latest plan calls for an examination of split basing, involving states such as Texas and New Mexico, even though that might mean a cost increase.

General Believes MX Unnecessary

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Retired Army Gen. Maxwell Taylor, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says he is unconvinced the controversial and expensive MX missile project is needed at this time.

In a recent letter to Rep. Paul Simon, D-Ill., released Sunday, Taylor wrote it is unlikely the Soviet Union would be able to launch a surprise attack wiping out most of the older U.S. silo-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The ICBMs are poised for a retaliatory attack against the Soviet Union and MX proponents argue the Soviets have the capability of destroying most of them.

Simon said Taylor's views put into question the wisdom of spending \$30-100 billion on the MX.

In the letter, Taylor said MX backers had not made "a convincing case" for replacing existing ICBMs or that the MX would be the best replacement.

"On these issues, I would need to be convinced that, during the next decade, there is a strong probability that the Soviets will launch a surprise attack upon our ICBMs, despite the risk of incurring a destructive retaliation in response," Taylor wrote. "There must also be reason to believe that such an attack would destroy most of the ICBMs. I am unconvinced on both points and would give a very low probability rating to this threat."

Taylor also expressed reservations on the proposed land-basing of the MX missile, saying he has "a strong bias in favor of a solution which would get any new strategic weapons off American soil."

Simon said he received the letter from Taylor in late April and is distributing copies to other House and Senate members to try to drum up support for an amendment he plans to offer to the fiscal 1981 Defense Authorization bill.

In an accompanying letter to his colleagues, Simon said his amendment would delete \$500 million earmarked in the bill for mobile basing of the MX missile, but would provide \$66 million for further study of alternate siting of the MX.

SUN 5-12-80

Bradhurst Gets MX Job

Gov. Robert List announced the appointment of Steven Bradhurst, 36, as the MX project manager for Nevada.

Bradhurst, who has been the number-two man in the Regional Planning Commission for Washoe County during the past six years, will fill the vacancy left by the previous manager, who resigned.

Bradhurst has several degrees in planning and geography, including a master's from the University of Nevada.

He is expected to assume his post at the end of the month, according to Bob Hill, State Planning Director.

SUN 5-13-80

Montana Mayor Extends MX Offer

"If the people in Utah and Nevada really don't want the MX missile, be assured that we here in Montana extend our offer to be No. 1 on the waiting list," unequivocally states a letter from the mayor of Great Falls, Mont. to the U.S. Air Force.

The Great Falls letter is one of nine solicited by the Air Force from public officials in cities impacted by the Minuteman missile system to "help allay some of your concerns and provide evidence that the Air Force is a good neighbor and valuable addition to the community," according to Gen. James P. McCarthy, special assistant for MX matters.

The letters released by the Air Force Monday are from Minot, N.D.; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Knob Noster, Mo.; Grand Forks, N.D.; Warrensburg, Mo.; Rapid City, S.D.; Great Falls, Mont.; and East Grand Forks, Minn.

Minot Mayor Chester Reiten writes relations between the Air Force and the people of Minot have been "harmonious and cordial, with mutual respect."

And Cheyenne Mayor Don Erickson writes of the "particularly fine" relationship with the Air Force during the "missile years."

Erickson goes on to say the Strategic Air Command has "operated their sophisticated systems throughout the

countryside in a safe, almost unnoticed way . . . We have gained important and tangible benefits from our association . . . the economic impact has been positive and substantial."

When a missile base first came to Warrensburg, Mo., the reaction was "much the same presently being experienced in Colorado and Utah," Mayor Delores Hudson writes. "Now, however, the base is viewed as having a positive impact on the area."

Mayor Arthur P. LaCroix, of Rapid City extolls the feeling of security the missiles brought to his community.

"However, we primarily appreciate the feeling of security the missile program gives us," LaCroix writes the Air Force. "It's consoling to know that someone is ready and able to defend us in an emergency."

Great Falls Mayor Gene Thayer suggests the residents of Utah and Nevada give the Air Force "half a chance" and they, too, will "soon realize what a tremendous contribution it will make to their communities."

Many of the letters also stress the contributions Air Force personnel make to the community both culturally and in times of need.

SUN 5-13-80

Complete MX study a must

Contemplating arguments against the MX missile system is a little like being a mosquito at a nudist colony: The opportunities are so vast, one hardly knows where to begin.

There appear, however, to be three key areas of concern:

ECOLOGY

How great an effect will the missile system have on the delicate ecological balance of Nevada and Utah's Great Basin area?

With all conceding some damage will be done, the point of contention becomes the extent of the harm. Part of that question will be answered by a draft environmental impact statement set to be released July 18 — after which a 90-day review period begins.

Gov. Robert List — increasingly one of the most outspoken critics of the system — recently blasted this review period as “inadequate for our state to intelligently respond to the vast amount of data which is currently being developed in all the various Air Force studies.”

The governor further said some of the critical studies will not be completed until the end of September. Consequently, he sent a letter to the Department of Defense recommending the release of the draft environmental study be delayed until Oct. 15, to be followed by a five-month public comment period.

An Air Force spokesman, responding to List's criticism, admitted studies will continue for a “considerable” time after the scheduled release of the report.

But the spokesman said List's use of the word “critical” is subjective and predicted adequate detail will be in the draft.

LAND USE

This may be the issue that strikes deepest into the hearts of Nevadans. Traditionally, this has been a multi-use state. Recreation, mining, ranching, farming, industry, urban living and the military have found peaceful co-existence possible.

But the MX is a land-gobbler — or at least it is feared so.

It threatens to scar some of the region's most beautifully desolate valleys with missile silos and connecting roads.

The Air Force maintains — and it appears willing to put it in writing — that only 25 square miles will be actually restricted from multi-purpose use.

Many, however, are skeptical. They fear the Air Force either will renege and take more land than 25 square miles, or render unusable vast amounts of surrounding land. The impact of nuclear warheads in an area will extend far beyond the 25-square-mile area Air Force officials so fondly tout. Hunting, to give just one example, would have to be severely limited in areas near the system.

It might be only an inconvenience for hunters who watch their quarry duck behind the hulking nuclear weapons, but inconvenience would be a minor problem for Air Force officials concerned about errant shots close to an armed nuclear warhead.

It is also doubtful the Air Force would allow Kennecott Copper Corp. to start an open-pit mine anywhere near the system. So maybe — just maybe — the 25-square-mile figure is just a little bit misleading.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Is the MX essential to national defense? If that's not the \$64,000 question, we don't know a missile from a fencepost.

If all the national defense experts were lined up and were asked, “All those who believe the United States needs better land-based missile strength, take one step forward,” we figure 80 percent of the experts would take one giant step ahead.

But if they were then asked, “All those who believe the MX is the best way to achieve that strength, sit down,” we believe only a handful of “MXperts” (most of whom would be on President Carter's payroll) would opt for taking a load off their feet.

The plain fact of the matter is the MX as proposed does not enjoy great support from the defense community. And that is cause for worry.

The interface between the military and political aspects of the MX is extensive, we believe. It's Jimmy Carter's system, and so stands a good chance of being a real turkey.

AND SO...

The answer is to follow Gov. List's lead.

The call for a careful and complete study of the ramifications of the missile system is an absolute must. We must be ready for whatever may happen — and there is no way we can prepare unless the proper studies are available.

In addition, the state's leaders must step up a drive to lessen the impact of the missile system. That means pushing for a reduction in the number of missiles proposed for Nevada and Utah, and unwavering insistence on receiving all the federal aid necessary to alleviate the impact of the system's construction.

We must keep asking questions, keep demanding answers, keep the concerns of our people in the minds of those making the critical decisions in Washington. It takes a loud voice to be heard from the deserts of Nevada all the way to the cloakrooms along the Potomac.

General reaffirms MX commitments

CARSON CITY (AP) — Air Force Brig. Gen. James McCarthy, the Pentagon's new MX man in the field, assured Gov. Robert List Tuesday that the change in the military team would not mean a change in MX commitments.

McCarthy succeeded Lt. Gen. Guy Hecker as the military's top MX salesman. Hecker will lobby Congress on MX matters.

McCarthy said he told List that Hecker's commitments to Nevada and Utah regarding the MX would be honored. And, he said top defense officials were writing a re-

sponse to the governor's request for a delay in MX development to give the state more time to study the possible environmental impacts.

McCarthy said the Air Force was committed to minimizing environmental effects of the MX, but added that “Any delay which affects the initial operating ability would not be in our best interests.”

He said some parts of the timetable might be changed as long as it did not affect when the first missiles become operational. That is set for 1986.

MX base designs discussed

Air Force officers were scheduled to meet Wednesday with local government officials to talk about design of military bases for the massive MX missile system.

Strategic Air Command officers have been working with three firms on design of the main and outlying bases that would be required if MX is built in Nevada.

No final decision on a main base location has been made yet. However, the favorite sites appear to be Coyote and Kane Springs, on or near the Lincoln-Clark county line; and in the Steptoe Valley just south of Ely.

Thousands of Air Force personnel would be based at the facility. MX-related maintenance gear, supplies and off-loading facilities would be located there.

The final site for the main base or bases, and satellite bases, will depend upon whether the entire MX system is built in Nevada and Utah.

Santini backs cut in MX

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressman Jim Santini says he will back a measure which would drastically reduce funding for what he calls the “dragstrip” basing mode for the MX missile.

The Pentagon recently proposed the new straight-road system as a replacement for the “racetrack” loop road system.

In a letter to his House colleagues, Santini, D-Nev., said Tuesday there have been at least 30 basing modes proposed by the Air Force.

SAC planners to turn in MX base site ideas

Strategic Air Command planners will submit their recommendations for the locations of the two huge main bases for the proposed MX missile system by the end of the week, a top SAC officer said in Las Vegas Wednesday.

Meanwhile in Washington, legislation that would cut \$500 million from MX missile project funding for next year is being co-sponsored by Rep. Dan Marriott, R-Utah, and Rep. Paul Simon, D-Ill.

The amendment to the \$53.1 billion defense spending bill for next year would also prohibit the Air Force from acquiring land for the huge MX project until other methods of deploying the missile are studied.

The Strategic Air Command recommendation is just one of several to be considered by the Pentagon, which may well make a "political decision" about where the bases — or the entire MX system — will be located, Col. Sam Goodwin said at a meeting with state and local planners.

"Our input may not

have much weight," Goodwin said. "... What we input into Air Staff is just one little item."

Goodwin, chief of the Advanced Missiles Division of SAC planning, said the largest factor to be considered would be the environmental impact of placing the huge mobile missile system in the desolate mountain valleys spanning the central portions of Nevada and Utah.

The population of the two states could be swelled by an estimated 35,000 persons who would live at the two main support bases if the MX system is built as originally planned.

The first and largest base would have about 8,400 personnel, while the second would have an estimated 6,300 workers. Adding dependents, the population of the first base would go to about 20,000 and that of the second to about 15,000 persons.

By contrast, Nevada's largest military installation, Nellis Air Force Base at Las Vegas, has about 10,000 military and civilian employees.

Five sites are under consideration for the two main operating bases. In Nevada, the Coyote Spring-Kane Spring area about 45 miles north of Las Vegas, as well as an area southwest of Tonopah and the Steptoe Valley south of Ely are under consideration for the main base. In Utah, a site southwest of Delta and two "subsites" near Milford are under consideration, probably for the smaller base.

Capt. Don Meister said only the main base would be used for assembly of the massive intercontinental ballistic missiles, which would be hidden in clusters of shelters. Meister said current plans call for the main base to be built between 1983 and 1987, while the second base would be built between 1985 and 1989.

A main criteria in the final selection of sites for the bases, Goodwin said, is quality of life for the Air Force and civilian personnel assigned to the bases.

"We're looking for a place, an area, where we can assign people too and

not sentence them too," he said.

The Air Force originally said the MX would be located in Nevada and Utah, but opposition to the project has prompted a search for other locations in Texas and New Mexico as well.

The fund-cutting amendment would trim \$500 million from the \$566 million proposed to be spent for MX deployment. The proposed \$1.6 billion in the defense spending bill for development of the missile itself would not be affected.

Under the proposal by the Air Force and the Carter administration, 200 of the missiles would be deployed among thousands of launch shelters in a grid arrangement in southeastern Utah and Nevada desert valleys.



SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY
...closer look at MX options

Kennedy eyes MX options

By Tim Dahlberg
R-J Staff Writer

Sen. Edward Kennedy called for a closer look at the possibility of locating MX-type missiles off the shores of the United States instead of the land-based concept favored by the Pentagon.

In Las Vegas Wednesday for a three-hour campaign stop, Kennedy told reporters at a McCarran International Airport press conference that all possible new missile options should be carefully examined.

"There's no question the land-based missiles will reach a degree of vulnerability in the mid-1980s," the presidential candidate said. "The MX missile has been devised to secure and protect that capability. That function can be, I believe, possibly served by locating the MX-type missiles in an offshore setting."

Kennedy said, if elected, his administration would look at both the land and sea options, but would try to work out "some sort" of agree-

ment with the Soviet Union to reduce nuclear weapons and make the MX system unnecessary.

Following the brief press conference, Kennedy's motorcade went to the Rancho Circle home of Virginia Mallin, where a \$250-a-couple fund-raising party garnered about \$10,000 from Kennedy supporters.

Kennedy was scheduled to stop at Helldorado before the fund-raiser, but the Secret Service changed that plan after determining Helldorado would be too much of a security risk.

The candidate and his entourage spent about an hour at the fund-raiser before leaving for the airport where his chartered jet left for Los Angeles about 9 p.m.

Kennedy blasted President Carter for what he called his "callous disregard" for Western issues, and pledged to treat Western states on an equal level with the rest of the nation.

Citing Carter's so-called "hit list" of Western water projects drawn up

shortly after his election, Kennedy chided the president for attempting to lop off the water projects all at once.

"It is this kind of arbitrary action that I think shows a gross insensitivity to the importance of water in the West. That's probably the clearest illustration of the callous disregard this administration has for Western issues."

Kennedy said he came to Las Vegas "to let Nevada Democrats know their primary is important."

The Massachusetts senator lost a straw poll among Democrats attending the state convention in Elko two weeks ago by a 2-1 margin and is expected to absorb a loss to Carter here in the May 27 presidential primary election.

But Kennedy said an Easterner like himself can win in the West, partly because of the Carter administration's attitude toward this section of the country.

"What we have seen is a Southern

president that hasn't been sensitive to the needs of the West," he added.

Responding to Carter's action Wednesday to halt the flow of illegal Cuban refugees, Kennedy called for the United States to "regularize" the status of those Cubans already in the country.

"We should regularize the status of those in the country at this time," he said, "with the emphasis on family re-unification cases."

Kennedy also called for other nations in the Western Hemisphere to take their fair share of the Cuban refugees, and for the federal government to help local agencies and governments handle the refugee burden financially.

Kennedy said he thought the third party candidacy of John Anderson would not hurt him in a race against Ronald Reagan as much as it would hurt Carter.

Asked why, Kennedy said, "It's just my own judgment. I just feel that way."

House leaves MX funds intact

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it came to cutting spending or beefing up the U.S. military, the House opted for military spending.

The House voted down an effort Wednesday to shelve the new MX missile system and later decided to resurrect a revamped, but slower,

version of the B-1 bomber that was shot down three years ago.

Development of the MX missile system, which would replace the aging Minuteman missile with a system of mobile missiles mounted on moving trucks in an effort to confuse enemy targeters, is contained in

a \$53.1 billion weapons authorization bill.

The authorization for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 includes \$36.3 billion for military hardware procurement, \$16.7 billion for research and development and \$167 million for civil defense.

The authorization is \$6.2 billion more than

the president sought. The House Armed Services Committee added the extra money primarily to buy more ships and planes.

Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., moved Wednesday to carve the \$1.6 billion for the MX out of the bill, but the House, with little debate, voted Dellums down, 319-82.

RJ 5-15-80

House rejects MX study

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House rejected an effort Thursday to delay development of President Carter's proposed MX missile system to give it more study.

It defeated an amendment 250-152 to cut from a \$53.1 billion defense bill all \$500 million for the "shell game" concept of moving the U.S. nuclear missiles around to hide them from Soviet destruction.

More study had been proposed by Rep. Paul Simon, D-Ill., who said military experts disagree whether the MX system, estimated ultimately to cost \$56 billion, is the best system.

He said a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired Gen. Maxwell Taylor, for example, favors putting most U.S. intercontinental nuclear missiles on ocean launchers.

"Let's make sure we know what we're doing," Simon argued.

Simon's amendment would have kept \$66 million in the bill to continue study of the system.

But MX supporters including Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., said more study would delay development of the system for two years, crowding the

mid-1980s when defense planners say the present Minuteman Missile system will be vulnerable to Soviet destruction.

Other supporters said the Defense Department has already conducted 30 studies to develop the MX system.

In Nevada, the state coordinator for an anti-MX group said he didn't see the House vote as a "complete defeat."

"We're very much encouraged by the fact that we picked up 70 votes over last year's vote," said Bill Vincent, referring to previous efforts to cut MX funds. Vincent is state coordinator for Citizens Alert.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown testified two weeks ago that the Pentagon now plans to shuttle 200 missiles between 4,600 launching points on special trucks.

He said the concept of moving them around huge "racetracks" in Western deserts has been replaced with a less environmentally-obtrusive one of moving them up and down long linear roadways.

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., said "it's a little silly to commit half a billion dollars to go full speed ahead on a system they just came up with last week."

Rep. Richard Ichord, D-Mo., chairman of the House armed services research and development subcommittee, said there may be further refinements but that the \$500 million would "cast in concrete" the basic shell game concept.

The \$53.1 billion authorization for the 1981 fiscal year starting Oct. 1 is \$6.2 billion more than Carter asked.

It includes \$36.3 billion for procurement of weapons and other military hardware, \$16.7 billion for research and development and \$167 million for civil defense.

The bill would also set an active U.S. military force level for the year at just over 2 million men and women: 775,800 Army, 537,456 Navy, 185,200 Marine Corps and 564,500 Air Force.

RJ 5-11-80

MX study rewrite sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two senators Friday said they have asked the Air Force to rewrite a draft study, which decided only two areas of the United States were suitable for the MX missile.

Sens. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., and Jake Garn, R-Utah, claim the study was based on overly narrow criteria and "the questionable assumption that all 200 missiles would be deployed in one location."

The study, "MX Basin Area Analysis Process," determined only a Nevada-Utah or West Texas-New Mexico site would be suitable for the \$31.8 billion nuclear missile system. The Air Force favors the Nevada Utah site.

Since the study was

conducted, there has been increasing pressure to split the system among several areas, despite Air Force claims that would raise costs and hinder the system's operation.

"The situation has changed since the study was done and it needs to be redone on a broad basis and with a degree of imagination and innovation," the senators said in a letter.

RJ 5-17-80

MX LAND MISSILE.

After setting more than \$3 billion for research and military construction in 1981 and 1982, the MX blockbuster missile is scheduled to receive \$10.2 billion in procurement money from fiscal 1983 through 1985. The MX would get \$4.9 billion in 1985 alone, as missile production rose from 18 in 1983 to 71 in 1985.

Counting everything, the Pentagon has said the MX will cost about \$34 billion but the General Accounting Office predicts a much higher price tag — \$57 billion.

Defense budget to top \$1 trillion

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Without so much as a drum roll, Congress is about to launch the American military's biggest peacetime buildup.

The congressional approval will take the form of budget ceilings established for national defense for the next three years — fiscal 1981 through 1983. While the Senate and House are currently at odds over whose budget numbers to adopt, the Senate Budget Committee reckons that its higher objectives for defense spending would total about \$1 trillion over the next five years.

A trillion dollars — that's \$1 with 12 zeroes after it. A trillion dollars sounds extraordinary, but the unspoken fact of this new defense buildup is that it will not make the United States the

undisputed No. 1 in global military might.

In fact, assuming continued peace, the U.S. armed services will eat up that trillion dollars without growing much bigger than they are today. Five years from now, critics still will be able to deplore the various "gaps" between the U.S. and Soviet military — the tank gap and the naval gap and the fighter plane gap and the nuclear megatonnage gap.

The Army, under the Pentagon's blueprint, will not be significantly bigger in 1985 than it is today — about 776,000 officers and soldiers. Although there has been a lot of talk about President Carter's Rapid Deployment Force for the Indian Ocean and other hot spots, the RDF will be made up of existing military units, not additional ones.

A big slice of that tril-

lion will buy new armor for the Army — including nearly 3,800 more tanks. But there will still be a tank gap with the Soviet Union in 1985.

Navy admirals insist they need a 600-ship fleet to cover the world. The Navy's slice of the trillion dollars will buy some new ships, but not enough to reach that goal. The 1985 outlook for naval aviation is more grim — fewer planes five years from now than today as losses outstrip new purchases.

The Air Force long has been pushing for a new bomber and new land-based missile, the MX. The bomber will get more study, and perhaps some development, and the MX will be started. But neither will be deployed by 1985 under current planning.

Marine Corps leaders deplore the lack of planes and ships to transport

their troops quickly to distant trouble spots. But their share of the trillion will not buy all the "lift" they think they need.

How can the president and Congress go on a five-year shopping spree which is going to buy so much frustration? The answer lies in the complexity of modern weapons and the uncontrollable costs of maintaining America's military forces.

— Only about one-fourth of the Pentagon's total budget goes to buy weapons, the procurement account. The rest goes to pay, house and feed soldiers; to maintain weapons already on hand and to conduct research on promising wonder weapons.

— The \$250 billion which under normal apportionment will go for procurement over the next five years — assuming the Senate's projec-

tions prove accurate — does not seem to buy as much because the new modern weapons cost so much more than the old ones they replace.

World War II's famous Sherman tank cost \$70,000 each, but the Army's new XM-1 main battle tank costs \$1 million each. The World War II Essex class aircraft carrier cost \$43.7 million; today's nuclear

See DEFENSE,
Page 2F

RJ 5.25.1980

MX runs into opposition elsewhere

By Terry Wade
R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Supporters of Sen. Howard Cannon's split-basing proposal for the MX missile system are about to run into some formidable opposition — politicians representing Texas and New Mexico, the Pentagon's second choice for the system.

A check of the handful of senators and representatives from the west Texas-east New Mexico alternate site shows the multibillion dollar project will get the same chilly reception in those two states that it's getting in Nevada.

And while one Texas representative said he would not oppose basing some of the 2300 extra missiles in part of his district, he said he will accommodate the system only out of patriotism.

Other congressmen aren't willing to go even that far, and it appears split-basing will have an uphill battle in both chambers of Congress.

Rep. Manuel Lujan, D-N.M., whose north-eastern New Mexico district could house some of the missiles, is certain to oppose any move to place any of the weapons in his district.

"We are against the MX missile system and oppose linear basing mode for the split basing concept," Lujan said. Lujan has teamed up with Nevada Rep. Jim Santini in criticizing the system on several occasions.

"It has been intimated that those of us from the western states do not like this basing mode because it would end up in one of the western states," he said. "That could not be any further from the truth. We think we have an obligation to go along for the national security of this country . . . but when it is such an

Insight

obviously inefficient system, we cannot just lay back and say, 'Well, go ahead and do it because the military wants to do it.'"

Lujan said there are alternatives, "whether people want to admit it or not," and said it would be "just as effective" to "put three of these in every congressional district and put some bushes over them and hide them so that the Russians would not know where they were."

Sen. Pete Dominici, R-N.M., is in the process of evaluating the system, but one of his aides said, "He's concerned about split basing obviously because of the possibility that such a system could end up in New Mexico."

Dominici is concerned about the high agricultural value and dense population of the high plains area — precisely the area the Air Force is looking at for an MX site.

"He believes there is value in the MX system," the aide said. "It's the basing he's against."

In Texas, Rep. Jack Hightower is soft-peddling the issue.

"The placement of any defense weapons like the MX missile must be made by the Defense Department without any political considerations," the Texas Democrat said. In the past, Hightower's district in the Texas panhandle has leaned toward big military projects such as the ill-fated B-1 bomber.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, told reporters recently that, if the Pentagon decides missiles

have to be put somewhere other than the primary Nevada-Utah site, then "We'll take a look at it."

Bentsen agrees with Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, who said thousands of prime agricultural acres would be yanked from production and thousands of families would have to be moved if the military were to decide to place the system in Texas and New Mexico.

Tower, the ranking minority member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the Cannon amendment calling for split basing "does not necessarily have to involve Texas and New Mexico," although military officials say otherwise.

There is little doubt that the Texas-New Mexico site is considered the front-runner among possible alternatives to the Nevada-Utah site.

"It deserves a fair hearing," Tower said of the Cannon amendment,

"and we need to look at it."

Tower has not taken a stand on the amendment, and while he "generally favors an MX system," he says he "Would have to be shown some

pretty persuasive information — and it doesn't appear to be forthcoming — that it really would be in the best interest of the country before he would ever begin to support" the split basing concept.

Opinions on MX sought by Laxalt

Editor's note: This is a guest editorial by Sen. Paul Laxalt.

It's been nearly a year since President Carter announced his decision to go ahead with the MX missile, a proposal which continues to cause considerable turmoil in Nevada.

I'd like to offer you some look-'em-in-the-eye straight talk about the current status of the MX as far as Nevada is concerned.

Frankly, the MX has caused some real philosophical problems for me. As a senator, I see the need for a new missile system. But as a Nevadan, I happen to like my state just the way it is.

Many of you, I'm sure, have found yourselves in a similar dilemma. Despite how badly the nation needs it, a project the size of the MX could destroy the Nevada we know.

I've always approached the MX with one thought in mind: If it has to be built and if it has to be built in Nevada, then the interests of Nevadans must be protected.

Today, I'm convinced that if Congress decides to build a new missile on land, there's little doubt but that a portion of it will be put in Nevada, whether we like it or not.

Recent developments, however, have left me feeling that the MX, if it is built, will be something we can live with, without sacrificing our way of life in the process.

We are continuing, with some success, to push for split deployment or at least a ceiling on the number of missiles which could be located in Nevada and Utah. Originally, the Air Force had suggested 200 missiles, with two-thirds to be built in Nevada. As of today, I'd say we'll end up with no more than half that many.

Also, the Air Force has pledged to help write into law assurances that free access will continue to be allowed to our public lands and assurances that our other rights will be maintained.

The Air Force has promised too that it will discourage construction workers from bringing their families and will house, feed and care for the workers in temporary camps. They won't be dumped on our communities.

Also, there are strong assurances that adequate impact money will be made available to help plan for and mitigate the effect on the MX construction and operation.

Whether an MX project will be authorized by Congress is an open question, of course. Anything can happen in a political year.

Personally, until we have studied in detail all the alternatives and until we have protection for Nevada's interests written into law, I will continue to withhold my support.

My gut feeling today, however, is that the impact of the MX, if it comes, won't be as great as initially feared.

I'd be very much interested in hearing your views on this matter.

Pentagon offers to split MX

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Defense Department has agreed to cut in half the proposed number of MX missiles to be deployed in Utah and Nevada, if Congress will pay the higher cost of placing the remaining missiles elsewhere, according to a published report.

A Pentagon spokesman declined to comment on Monday's copyright story in the Deseret News.

The Salt Lake City newspaper said the proposal for having two MX basing areas was made in negotiations between Defense Department officials and Sens. Jake Garn, R-Utah, and Paul Laxalt, R-Nev.

The newspaper said the plan would be presented to the Senate Armed Services Committee this week.

The Air Force and Carter Administration have proposed locating 200 of the missiles among 4,600 launch shelters in

desert valleys of Utah and Nevada. The missiles would be shuffled among shelters set out in a grid system to avoid detection by the Soviet Union.

The plan has seen growing opposition from residents of the two states, who fear it would harm the fragile desert, alter their lifestyles and make the region a prime target for Soviet attack.

Under the new proposal, the News said, the Pentagon would base 100 missiles among 2,300 shelters in the two states.

Among the areas mentioned as possible alternative sites for the MX system is the New Mexico-Texas border region.

Utah Gov. Scott Matheson and the state's congressional delegation have supported "split-basing" of the MX.

Matheson was in Washington last week to meet with Garn and Rep. Gunn McKay, D-Utah. Garn serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, while McKay chairs the House military construction appropriations subcommittee.

Matheson has not announced the split-basing proposal, but said last Thursday that "the first really substantial step forward" to reduce the impact of MX on Utah and Nevada had occurred.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown has said the Carter Administration would not object to split basing of the MX.

However, Pentagon officials have estimated that split basing could add \$7 billion to the MX price tag because additional operational bases would be needed at each location.

RJ 5.27.1980

MX split called unlikely

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

The MX coordinator for Nevada's rural counties said Wednesday he would be surprised if the missile project is split between states other than Nevada and Utah.

"With them (members of Congress) trying to balance the budget, they are not going to spend \$7 billion more on MX. I would be surprised if it goes," Richard Atwater said. Atwater, who represents the rural counties in MX-related discussions, was in Las Vegas to ad-

dress a meeting of the 100-member local chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Atwater was referring to recent reports that Defense Department officials have agreed to cut in half the proposed number of MX missiles to be deployed in Nevada and Utah. As part of the agreement, Congress would pay the higher cost of placing the remaining missiles elsewhere.

It is estimated the so-called "split basing" concept would add \$7 billion to the \$33 billion

MX price tag because additional operating bases would be needed at each location.

It was reported by a Salt Lake City paper that Nevada's Sen. Paul Laxalt and Utah's Sen. Jake Garn had worked out a split basing plan with defense officials and would present the proposal to the Senate Armed Services Committee this week. However, Atwater said the

attempts to get split basing are only political moves.

If the project was split, 100 missiles and 2,300 shelters would be put in Nevada and Utah instead of the original 200 missiles and 4,600 shelters. Among the areas mentioned as possible alternative sites for the rest of the system is the New Mexico-Texas border region.

The primary advan-

tage of splitting the system is to reduce the impacts of MX on the rural areas.

Atwater also said the Defense Department's recent shift from putting missiles in loops to placing them on straight roads in a grid system would cost less and use less land, but would do little to reduce the system's impact on small towns.

RJ 5-29-80

LV chamber welcomes MX

Despite the apparent rising public sentiment against the proposal to build part of the MX missile system in Nevada, the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has formally voiced its support of a main operating base near Las Vegas.

Military officials are considering three sites in Nevada for a main base, but in a May 27 letter to Antonia Chayes, undersecretary of the Air Force, chamber officials state the organization believes the Coyote Springs-Kane Springs area on the Clark-Lincoln county border "is the preferable site among those the Air Force is evaluating."

The other two potential sites include one near Tonopah and one just south of Ely.

Frank Johnson, president of the 1,700-member chamber, said, "If we are going to get (the system) here anyhow, we should strive to get the most benefits out of it and welcome them (the military)."

Johnson said chamber members talked with government leaders from communities affected by the Minuteman missile project and said those officials were "unanimously happy" with having the system in their areas.

People here are "not afraid to go with the biggest (project)" and if the system is "something this country needs, this is not the time to short-change the country," he said.

The resolution states that the base should be built near Las Vegas because hospitals, a university, churches, libraries and other services are already available for the people who move to the area to staff the base. There are also contractor service companies and suppliers established and ready for immediate use in construction and maintenance of the base, it says.

RJ 5-29-80

MX Planner Talks Of Socio-Economic Effect

By LAURA HINTON LYON
SUN Staff Writer

Although the classical boomtown effects could be minimized, the impact of the proposed MX missile system would bring unavoidable social and economic change to small rural Nevada communities if deployed there, a professional planner studying the problem said Thursday.

Richard Atwater, recently appointed MX coordinator for the Tri-County Oversight Committee, representing Clark, Nye and Lincoln counties, said that "addressing the potential socio-economic changes with MX in Nevada's small, homogeneous towns is something I really don't feel very comfortable with."

Speaking before a joint meeting of the Southern Nevada American Society for Public Administration and the American Planning Association at the Library Buttery and Pub Restaurant, 200 W. Sahara Ave., the former Clark County planner said he is currently devising schemes to alleviate an MX-system impact on rural Nevada counties.

"We are asking how government can minimize the boom-and-bust cycle effects" brought on by some 30,000 transient residents, he said, "and developing plans to

accommodate the growth if the MX does come to Nevada."

Another goal of the committee is to create a "unified voice" on the local level when asking for help from the federal government.

"We've got to lobby Washington for assistance grants, for transfer of public land into private hands for development," Atwater said. "We've got to develop our credibility . . . ask for things in one unified voice."

The planner, based in Pioche, admitted that opposition to the MX among rural residents was running strong.

"My guess is that three out of four people are against it, but there's a lot of mixed emotions," Atwater said.

"There are a lot of people willing to accept the system if the government will take care of the impacts," he continued.

As originally conceived, the \$36 billion MX system would deploy some 200 missiles and 46,000 shelter units on a "racetrack" loop system winding through the valleys of southern Utah and Nevada. However, the Air Force recently announced it had scrapped the racetrack mode for a linear "grid" system — which theoretically would concentrate shelters in fewer valleys and utilize up to 20

percent less land.

Still, from the planner's point of view, this change would not alter impacts of the system economically or socially.

Community services, supplies and instant housing for construction workers and Air Force personnel who would flock into Nevada's sparsely populated regions during the mid-1980s must be provided.

The Oversight Committee was granted \$180,000 this fiscal year for preliminary MX planning, and will need 1.5 million next year if the system gets presidential OK in the fall.

Without comprehensive planning, the system could cause rural counties a "horrendous" government management problem, Atwater said.

Chamber Opposes MX Base Site.

The Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has officially gone on record as endorsing the location of the proposed multi-billion-dollar MX missile project main base in the Coyote Springs-Kane Springs area, some 65 miles north of Las Vegas.

In a special resolution passed Tuesday, the Chamber noted the area is adjacent to the metropolitan Las Vegas area with availability of contractor services, hospitals, all levels of education including a university and community

college, churches, libraries, and all forms of recreational facilities.

The resolution also noted the mutually beneficial and friendly relationships established between Las Vegas and Nellis Air Force base for more than 40 years and said the same such relationship would exist between Las Vegas and personnel of the MX main base.

The resolution was sent to Antonio Chayes, Undersecretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C.

SUN 5-29-80

Jack McCloskey/Jasper

MX Center Stage At Hawthorne Celebration

While all of the visitors (to Hawthorne's Armed Forced Day celebration) expressed views on the current issues that affect this country, Senator Cannon, quite understandably, took center stage because his office has been, and will be, called upon to initiate legislation, or use his influence for or against some of the programs.

All of Cannon's responses were direct and frank, even though some of the views he expressed might not have been those his listeners had anticipated. This was especially true when he discussed the controversial MX missile issue, and the status of the ammunition plant in Hawthorne.

Cannon stated he has requested the Army to keep his office informed of developments relating to "contracting out" the depot — ammunition plant. He has assured Civil Service workers who oppose the possible changeover he will insist any "cost effective" determination be documented.

He noted there is concern "both ways" — that even if the plant remains under government operation there is no current assurance the Army intends to continue a "production line" and may limit the scope of work to a storage depot which could result in further reduction in force.

Cannon made it very clear that the MX missile will be built and deployed — most likely in Nevada and Utah. He noted that he and several other senators, including Paul Laxalt of Nevada, offered an amendment to reduce the number of shelters proposed for Nevada and Utah by one-half, and to have the Air Force consider alternate locations in other southwestern states.

Cannon said he believes the amendment will be approved, and thus greatly reduce the impact on central Nevada. He warned, however, that if alternate locations are not deemed suitable, future sessions of Congress have the authority to reinstate the original program which apparently seems destined for Nevada and Utah.

Nevada's senior senator also noted that while there is much apprehension in this state and Utah over the impact of the massive program, the sentiment in Congress is strong for bolstering this nation's defense capability in view of the current world situation.

Clarifying some of the "misconceptions" that have developed out of the MX hassle, Cannon explained the

alternate "racetrack" and "grid" systems of deployment. Actually there is very little difference, he pointed out, but the misnamed "racetrack" plan became the target of anti-MX groups and resulted in revision of the mode of deployment.

Cannon explained that under either system the roads to the shelters would be of gravel construction and the average speed of transport vehicles would be about three to five miles an hour. Also, he noted in reference to concern over water supply, the shelter system would be built in an area where there would be no water within a depth of 50 feet or more. Preliminary studies have shown there are vast water supplies at depth of about 5,000 feet and that water needed to support the missile project would be developed from these greater depths, Cannon said.

The senator added that while he has endeavored to take an unemotional and objective view of the MX program he has insisted that the Air Force cooperate with the affected states to minimize any impact resulting from withdrawal of federally owned land from general public use, and

population growth in sparsely populated central Nevada.

Acknowledging he is taking "a lot of heat" for approaching the MX project in what he terms a realistic manner (he is a ranking member of the Senate Armed Services committee), Cannon said he believes the unfavorable publicity he has been receiving in the "eastern press" can be directly tied to his position on MX.

In one brief statement, Cannon said Cuban refugees are still coming in, but they would not be coming to Hawthorne. He told county commissioners he would assist them in the effort to obtain excess government housing and land at Babbitt if a program can be developed to alleviate the housing shortage in this area.

We were impressed by the "direct and open" approach of Senator Cannon, whom we have not always supported in the past. As we explained to one of his aides: "We believe Howard has matured on the job." The response: "That's a coincidence. On the way down, the senator remarked how much the local editor had matured." If it's good for Mineral County, we'll accept it either way.

MINERAL COUNTY INDEPENDENT

SUN 5-29-80

Air Force announces planned MX base sites

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Air Force has announced plans to put MX missile system bases near Beryl, Utah, and Ely, to the surprise of state officials, Utah's MX planner said.

Ken Olson, director of Utah's MX Task Force, said the sites were named "for planning purposes only. That's possibly the final decision, and possibly, they could be moved six times" before construction of the missile system begins.

The Utah site is in Iron County, about 38 miles northwest of Cedar City. That location was a surprise to state officials, who expected the Utah base to be in the northern part of the Great Basin area where the MX system is to be constructed, he said.

"We knew they were looking at several sites in Utah and Nevada, but we thought the Air Force preferred a base in Southern Nevada and North-

ern Utah," Olson said. "We were very surprised."

The MX system requires bases in the northern and southern parts of the desert area where it will be located, he said.

Even if the Air Force decides to place part of the missile system in New Mexico and Texas, Olson said the Beryl site would still be the main air base for the Utah-Nevada portion of the MX system.

The Ely base would then become a smaller support base, while the second major base would be located at an existing Air Force base in New Mexico, Olson said. No bases would be located in Texas under that plan.

The Beryl site could create planning problems in Utah because the town is remote from major population centers, Olson said. Cedar City, 38 miles away, is the nearest.

R J 6 -1-80



FUTURE OF NEVADA - Members of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada met Monday at North Las Vegas City Hall. The commission was brought up to date on the intentions of the Air Force to place the proposed MX system in Nevada. R-J photo by Gary Thompson

Nevada still prime site for MX project

By James Kastelic
R-J Staff Writer

The Air Force still is looking at Nevada as its prime location for the MX missile system even though military officials have studied the possibility of deploying the massive defense project in various other regions of the Southwest, a member of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada said Monday.

Robert Hill, speaking at a commission meeting at North Las Vegas City Hall, said the Air Force has studied the high plains areas of West Texas and New Mexico as possible sites for the MX, but recent news accounts have indicated it is still eyeing Nevada as the major location.

"Realistically, it's important to note that the Air

Force says Nevada is their favorite location," Hill said.

"Air Force officials still feel Nevada is their favorite site, but they have also indicated they have looked at alternate (MX) basing regions," he said.

Hill said Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon is ready to submit his amendment to the defense appropriations bill now before Congress, which would request the basing modes be divided up among states in the Southwest.

The amendment is expected to ask that the Air Force develop an analysis by next February of alternate basing mode sites, Hill said.

Hill also said a partial draft of the Air Force's environmental impact statement is expected to be ready by July 18. The rest of the statement should be ready

"over a period of weeks or months" from then, he said.

On the state level, Hill said the committee still is trying to gather input on the MX from regional advisory committees set up earlier this year to study impact concerns of local entities.

In other business, the committee announced it will select researchers later this month to conduct another survey of how Nevadans feel about the future of the state.

In another matter, Dr. James McMillan, president of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asked that his presentation on an unspecified matter be held until the committee's June 30 meeting in Reno.

RJ 6-3-80

Cannon MX Bill At Issue

Brown To Face Senators

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate Armed Services Committee has scheduled a closed-door hearing Thursday to question Defense Secretary Harold Brown on a Senate amendment that would split the proposed MX Missile complex among four states.

Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., offered the amendment to the 1981 Defense Department authorization bill. Cannon's bill, if approved, would provide for construction of only half of the planned 4,600 MX launch sites in Utah and Nevada deserts.

The concealed launch sites would house 200 of the intercontinental ballistic missiles. By cutting the Utah-Nevada project in half, only 100 of the MX Missiles could be located in the two states.

Cannon's bill would force the Defense

Department to consider splitting the system between two sites. The second site would likely be in New Mexico and Texas. The Nevada senator claims the Air Force will support his bill.

The committee said it wants to question Brown to obtain the Pentagon's position on the split-basing bill.

The Air Force claims the MX system would be less vulnerable to enemy attack and reduce the danger to other targets in the United States. The military claims an enemy would have to wipe out the 4,600 launchers to make sure that all the MX Missiles were destroyed, thus pulling missiles away from other targets.

Opponents say that by the time the MX is operational, the Russians will have enough nuclear weapons to attack all current military targets in the United States as well as the 4,600 MX launch sites.

SUN 6-4-80

Feds Strictly Want Nevada, Utah MX

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon estimates it would cost an extra \$3 billion to base the controversial MX missile system in New Mexico and Texas as well as Utah and Nevada, a senior defense official said Thursday.

For less money, he said, the United States could alleviate the impact of the strategic missile system on local communities in Utah and Nevada where the Pentagon prefers to base the system.

Considerable political opposition has developed in those states to being the sole sites for the vast movable missile bases.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown met in private Thursday with members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss the \$33 billion MX system and other strategic programs.

At the same time, another defense official told reporters the Pentagon continues to favor basing the MX solely in Utah and Nevada, on federal property.

The Pentagon has ordered a study on "split-basing," which is expected to be completed by July.

But in advance of its completion, high defense officials caution that spreading the MX system into the two other states would have negative ramifications:

- Possibly as many as 10,000 residents of Texas and New Mexico would have to be relocated.

- Land in those states is more agriculturally productive than sites in Utah and Nevada, and the federal government is reluctant to take it out of production.

- The Pentagon would have to buy additional command and control aircraft to accommodate a four-state spread. The MX, like the Minuteman missile system, may be fired by command aircraft constantly in the air.

The estimated price tag involved in these adjustments would amount to about \$3 billion, defense experts estimate. (Please See NEVADA, Page 4)

Nevada, Utah Still Favored As MX Bases

(Continued From Page 1)

mate. They argue it would cost significantly less to ease the local impact of bases in Nevada and Utah.

Pentagon officials hope Congress will agree eventually with this argument.

There are fears in the defense establishment that if the Pentagon was forced to proceed with "split-basing," the administration's political problem would be compounded.

That, in turn, could delay deployment of the first MX missiles — currently projected for 1986 — and prolong the "window of vulnerability" to Soviet military might.

SUN 6-6-80

Defense secretary still prefers one MX base

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Carter Administration "could not accept" a proposal to limit the number of MX missiles in Nevada and Utah, Defense Secretary Harold Brown reportedly said Thursday at a closed Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

Brown's testimony, relayed through congressional sources, directly conflicts with earlier assurances from Department of Defense officials that they would endorse Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon's amendment to allow no more than half of the system in the Nevada-Utah desert. Air Force officials have agreed to support Cannon's legislation to deploy the system in two areas, a concept known as "split basing."

Under the Cannon amendment, the federal gov-

ernment would need to study alternative areas — New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle have been mentioned as possibilities — to fulfill its goal of 200 missiles and 4,600 shelters for the MX system.

While the amendment allows the Department of Defense to proceed with the first half of the system in Nevada and Utah, construction of the second half could not begin until the split-basing study was completed.

Despite Brown's preference for a single site, Cannon remains optimistic that the secretary of defense would eventually accept the amendment.

"I think (Brown's) prepared to live with it," Cannon said of split basing. "Because if he can't get a bill with no amendments at all, I'm sure he would prefer this."

Sources at the closed session said Brown was

"firmly against" split basing.

In a prepared statement released after the hearing, Brown said split basing "does not appear to be an attractive alternative" to placing the system solely in the Nevada-Utah desert but he would consider the results of upcoming studies "in an open-minded way." The statement made no reference to Cannon's amendment, which could force half of the system out of Nevada and Utah. It did, however, identify some problems with split basing.

"Operating at two bases will complicate command and control to some degree, probably requiring duplicate ground communications facilities and duplicate airborne launch control centers," Brown said. "The higher population density in New

Mexico and Texas — relative to Nevada and Utah — will increase relocation costs and may complicate somewhat the task of maintaining proper physical security."

After the hearing, Cannon said he came away with the impression that "Secretary Brown would prefer not to have any amendment at all, just have us authorize the entire system and not have us say anything about the split basing mode."

"However, we're not inclined to go along with that."

As an early MX supporter and representative of a state where opposition to the system is strong, Cannon is considered a crucial link to passage of further MX legislation in the Armed Services Committee.

MX split basing is costlier

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon prefers limiting deployment of the new MX mobile missile system to Utah and Nevada because it would cost an additional \$3 billion to spread it into Texas and New Mexico as well, a defense official said Thursday.

The high-ranking defense official conceded, however, that what is called "split basing" of the MX system probably would soften local opposition in Utah and Nevada.

"With split basing, we'd probably gain more public support for MX than basing it in one central area," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

"From that standpoint, it's a good idea. But it would cost us about \$3 billion more."

The plan currently favored by the Pentagon calls for deploying 200 missiles among 4,600 shelters on U.S. government-owned land in Utah and Nevada desert valleys. Considerable local opposition has arisen in those two states, primarily on environmental grounds.

Demand lessens for land to be used as missile sites

CARSON CITY (AP) — A new report shows Lander and Eureka counties are now only "secondary" choices for MX missile shelter sites, state MX Project Director Steve Bradhurst said Thursday.

Bradhurst also said less land in Nye and White Pine counties appear to be needed as a result of changes such as a shift from circular to linear MX missile placements. The only other likely Nevada county to get missile shelters is Lincoln.

Other reasons for the smaller area may include environmental and planning concerns — and a decrease the spacing between missile shelters from about 7,200 feet to a mile, he added.

Bradhurst said exact names of valleys which may be omitted from the MX picture in Nevada are not yet available, although the "shrinkage" is generally on the western and northern fringes of the vast Central Nevada area which could get much of the MX project.

He also said the

shrinkage would occur even if Nevada and Utah got the entire system — 200 missiles scattered among 4,600 shelters.

There's pressure to cut the size of the system in the two states by basing part of it in other states like Texas and New Mexico. That could mean even less land being fenced off for the missile sites.

Boeing Aerospace Co., one of the main contractors on the MX project, advised the state MX office of the new "secondary" classifications for the fringe areas. The discussion occurred at a meeting where power needs of the system were being discussed.

A \$53.1 billion weapons bill containing full authorization for the MX system won House approval late last month. But the Senate Armed Service Commit-

tee has been working on a plan to cut the size of the system.

State Planning Coordinator Bob Hill, Bradhurst's boss, has said he's optimistic that the project size will be limited — at least temporarily.

President Carter approved development of the system to replace the present Minuteman

missiles, which the Pentagon says will be vulnerable to Soviet attack in the mid 1980s.

Cost of the entire system has been estimated at \$56 billion by the General Accounting Office.

RJ 6-6-80

\$97 million OK'd for MX planning

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A congressional subcommittee has approved \$97 million for MX missile planning next year, including at least \$3 million to help ease impacts on Utah and Nevada, an aide to Rep. Gunn McKay, D-Utah, said Friday.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials have said basing some of the missiles in an area other than Utah and Nevada could add \$3 billion to the system's price tag.

McKay spokesman Pat Thorne said the funding recommendation by the House Appropriations subcommittee on mili-

tary construction contains "significant restrictions," but will allow the Defense Department to continue planning on the proposed grid deployment system.

The Pentagon currently favors deploying all 200 of the planned missiles among 4,600 launch shelters laid out in grids in Utah and Nevada deserts. However, the Senate Armed Services Committee heard arguments Thursday for a "split-basing" proposal to place some of the missiles in New Mexico and Texas.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown told the

Senate committee he opposes split basing, but Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, testified Utah and Nevada should not have to bear alone the burden of the huge project.

A high-ranking Pentagon official, who asked to remain anonymous, acknowledged the split-basing plan would probably soften opposition to the MX in Utah and Nevada. But he said it would take longer to build the missile shelters in New Mexico and Texas because of weather conditions. In addition, he said about 10,000 residents might have to be relocated if those areas were cho-

sen.

Thorne said of \$4 million for economic impact assistance, 70 percent would be reserved for local governments and 30 percent Utah and Nevada. He said \$1 million of the amount would be held in reserve for other areas should Congress decide on split basing.

The subcommittee's bill also specifies the Defense Department and Air Force must abide by states' water rights. If new water is discovered during MX planning or construction, rights to that water would be given to the states, Thorne said.

In addition, the bill requires the Air Force to stick to two-or three-acre plots for each launch shelter, Thorne said. "That avoids cordoning off large areas in the future," he said.

The measure requires full compliance with environmental protection laws before any money can be used to develop a site, and requires the Texas-New Mexico area be studied as a possible site, he said. It also increases the comment period on MX environmental impact statements from 45 to 90 days.

The subcommittee reviewed more than 35 de-

ployment alternatives, but determined the grid system was strategically and technically the most attractive, said McKay, the subcommittee's chairman. The panel "could not justify postponing design work hoping for some other basing mode to come along," he said.

However, McKay said the bill requires further study of other basing modes and defense sys-

tems, including basing the missiles on shallow-water submarines.

The bill is to be considered by the House Appropriations Committee next Thursday, and should go to the House

floor the following week, Thorne said.

McKay said the subcommittee rejected the Senate's so-called "capping" proposal to limit the number of Utah-and Nevada-based missiles.

Cannon: Pentagon hedging on MX

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon on Friday said the Department of Defense is hedging on what he considered a commitment to his proposal to limit the number of MX missile shelters in Nevada and Utah.

Cannon acknowledged Secretary of Defense Harold Brown on Thursday told the Senate Armed Services Committee the defense department "could not accept" language in a defense authorization bill that would limit the initial number of

shelters in Nevada and Utah to 2,300.

Just more than two weeks ago Cannon and fellow Nevada senator Paul Laxalt revealed a compromise had been reached with the Defense Department.

That compromise included an agreement by the Defense Department to stand by and allow an amendment to the fiscal 1981 Defense Authorization bill, which would allow only half the proposed 4,600 shelters to be built in Nevada and Utah, unless a study of alternative sites offered no hope for building part of the

system elsewhere.

Brown "made it absolutely clear he would like no amendment," Cannon said. Brown's statement came during a closed-door session of the committee.

Cannon said it would "probably be a fair assessment" to say the Department of Defense is hedging on the earlier compromise and added "it's safe to say Brown does not support the language."

"I think Brown's testimony would indicate an effort to defeat it (the Cannon amendment)," the senator concluded.

RJ 6-7-80

MX Study Finds Missile Need

Even if the MX missile comes on line immediately, the United States remains vulnerable and the Minuteman III ICBM program should be revived, a new study reveals.

If the administration and Congress were to agree to immediately go ahead with the MX, it would not solve the problem of U.S. strategic vulnerability during the next three years, according to Heritage Foundation military analyst Jeffrey G. Barlow.

For that reason, Barlow says the administration should revive the Minuteman program, deploying the missiles in vertical protective silos that later could be adapted to the MX.

"There is no doubt that the United States urgently needs both an advanced counterforce-capable ICBM and a survivable basing mode for it," Barlow says.

The MX missile envisioned by the Air Force would adequately fulfill the first requirement, he says, because it is designed to have

the accuracy and power to successfully "kill" Soviet ICBMs while they are still in their protective silos.

The second requirement, however, is the sticking point, Barlow's study points out. There is serious question whether Congress will support the administration's favored basing mode.

"And if the basing mode is not found acceptable, the missile itself may be lost," he says.

"The Defense Department is certainly aware of this possibility and, as a result, has begun rethinking those aspects of the MX basing mode that seem to have garnered the greatest public disapproval," Barlow says.

For example, several weeks ago, the Air Force publicly hinted that it might be possible to split the

planned MX deployment scheme so that half of the missile force would be based in the Great Basin and the other half in an alternate site, possibly West Texas and eastern New Mexico.

This dual-basing concept would certainly appeal to Nevada and Utah members of Congress, the study states.

In addition, on May 6 Defense Department Secretary Harold Brown testified the department had dropped its plan for the "racetrack" road loops in favor of a "linear track" road network. In linear tracks the loading dock horizontal shelters would be sited off straight roadways.

"Such changes should go far in alleviating some of the environmental criticisms that have emerged in recent months," Barlow says.

He suggests in his study

that it would be much better to deploy the MX in vertical silos. The silos could be used for the Minuteman first, then quickly and inexpensively modified for the MX.

The Carter administration must convince Congress that its emerging MX basing scheme has a definite military usefulness, he says.

"If the members of Congress cannot be persuaded that the choice of the MX missile's basing mode is motivated primarily by factors other than the need to appeal to the self-imposed requirements of our arms control community, they may

well vote the program down before the first missile is deployed," Barlow says.

Barlow's study cites the following factors bogging the MX down:

- Early Air Force concentration on the requirement for a counter-force capable ICBM survivability — which led to a go-slow, business-as-usual program development approach.

- Air Force and administration avoidance of vertical shelter basing for MX prior to 1978 and subsequent dropping of vertical shelter basing in early 1979.

SUN 6-10-80

MX impact 'horrendous,' governors told by List

INCLINE VILLAGE (AP) — The impact of the MX missile system will rattle state economies throughout the West, Nevada Gov. Robert List has warned other western governors at their annual meeting.

The project would cause "horrendous impacts" with shortages of cement, electricity, fuel and even workers, List said Tuesday.

"Virtually every state within the western region would be substantially affected," by the proposed \$31 billion

missile system planned for Nevada and Utah, he told a session of the Western Governors' Conference.

Utah Gov. Scott Matheson said he did not believe the impacts of the system could be mitigated at any price.

The MX system, proposed to counter the threat of a Russian nuclear strike, would scatter 200 missiles among 4,600 silos in the Nevada and Utah deserts.

List, Matheson and other leaders of the two states are pushing to have at least part of the system deployed elsewhere. The Air Force has agreed to study the feasibility of putting it in West Texas or New Mexico, but New Mexico Gov. Bruce King said he was not eager to make a home for the missile either.

List told the governors the MX would be the biggest public works

project in man's history, "larger than the Panama Canal, larger than the Great Wall of China, larger than the pyramids of Egypt."

Nevada and Utah alone do not have the resources to build a project of that magnitude, he said. List charged that the federal government and its studies of the system's impact failed to account for other major public works projects which would be in full swing at the same time as the MX. He said it would

be a challenge to the nation to find materials to handle the MX as well as the \$20 billion synthetic fuel proposal, the \$35 billion coal development proposal and the \$6 billion intermountain power project.

The MX alone would require tens of thousands of workmen and List has warned that the high wages paid them will inevitably cripple farms, mines, stores and other local industries which could not pay competitive wages.

RJ 6-11-80

Miners may see gold mine in MX

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

More than 18,000 mining claims have been filed with the state since the beginning of the year, a boom some believe may be due to speculators hoping to cash in on the proposed MX missile system.

Bureau of Land Management officials say someone could file mining claims on lands within the proposed MX missile sites and then try to force the government to pay for mineral rights when construction starts.

Insiders connected with the development of the MX system have said they are concerned speculators may be trying this mining scheme. They fear such speculators have no plans to develop their claims, only to sell them for quick and easy cash.

Records show the number of mining claims in Nevada has increased dramatically since the Air Force announced plans to build a \$33 billion MX system in eastern Nevada.

"I think it would be possible, but it would probably lead to a court case," said BLM official Pam Ouelette about such a mining scheme.

"That's new to me," BLM geologist Brent Bertram said about MX speculation. "But I can see it happening. It's a possibility.

However, Lt. Col. Jesse Ford, an Air Force spokesman on MX matters, said the government could avoid

problems with mining claims by bypassing those sites.

"We have said we will not conflict with any existing mineral claims," Ford said in a telephone conversation from the Pentagon. "If the claims have any commercial value, then we won't put the shelters there."

Ford said each MX shelter will cover 2.5 acres and everything between the proposed 4,600 shelters will remain in BLM control. Since the shelters are small, the Air Force has a great deal of flexibility in deciding where they are located, he said.

Because of the immense amount of publicity given the MX system, Ouelette assumes courts would see through mining speculation schemes and deny claims for compensation.

Although the BLM has seen a tremendous rise in the number of mining claims filed, nothing indicates they were filed by MX site speculators, Ouelette said.

Since the beginning of the year, 18,211 new mining claims have been filed with the BLM. Through Monday, a total 153,886 valid mining claims have been registered in Nevada.

"Everyone is going over the old mining claims," says geologist Bertram. "It wasn't economical to do it 10 years ago, but gold is now \$560 an ounce."

Bertram said most of the new claims in Clark County have been filed for sites near Searchlight, Nelson and Goodsprings. All have a history of successful gold or

zinc mining. None of these claims are near the proposed missile site.

"We don't pay attention to what type of claim it is. Most I have seen are for turquoise," Ouelette says.

Ouelette said she tries to stay ignorant about where claims have been filed because BLM employees constantly are bombarded for such information.

"We have never had so much public inquiry," she says.

Anyone may file a mining claim under the Organic Act of 1872. This law requires a miner to stake his claim and do at least \$100 worth of work around the site annually.

By 1976, many old claims obviously had been abandoned. In that year, Congress required miners to begin refileing on all claims. As a result, many of the 153,000 claims in Nevada are based on claims originally filed more than 100 years ago.

"We anticipated 110,000 claims," Ouelette says. "More people are out digging."

Many of them are just "weekend miners" trying to find gold, Bertram says. "Claim staking has increased quite a bit since the price of gold went up."

Most miners stake claims by hammering in 4-foot wooden posts, although building a monument with rocks is acceptable, he added.

RS 6.11.1980

Western Governors Confab Stirs Debate

List, Matheson Protest MX

INCLINE VILLAGE (UPI) — The governors of Utah and Nevada, fighting Pentagon plans to build the MX missile system in their states, protested Tuesday to Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who said the project will have to meet all environmental laws.

Building the missile bases will revive the "boom and bust" cycle that has afflicted the West's economy for generations and do "damage beyond measure... to people who have chosen to live in small isolated peaceful towns," said

Nevada Gov. Robert List in a speech to the annual Western Governors Conference.

His stand was endorsed by Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, who said he and List were working to lessen the impact by trying to persuade the Carter administration to build some of the missile sites in other states.

List told the assembled governors the MX is a problem they should all be concerned with, "at least Governor King," pointing to New Mexico Gov.

Bruce King, who smiled and nodded.

Texas and New Mexico have been mentioned most often as additional locations for MX sites.

The \$32-billion MX project would conceal 200 missiles in 4,600 shelters cut into miles-long "dragstrips" in the deserts.

Giant transporters would shuffle the missiles in a shell game designed to create so many targets the Soviet Union couldn't launch a nuclear missile attack on the United States without building

thousand more missiles to avoid retaliation.

The MX is "the biggest public works project ever conceived by man," List said, "larger than the Panama Canal or the pyramids of Egypt or the Great Wall of China."

The demand for materials and manpower will cause "horrendous" shortages, inflation, and strain on public and private resources throughout the West, he told neighboring governors.

Although the federal government has promised to compensate states for economic hardships, Matheson told reporters, the impact "won't be mitigatable by any amount of money at all."

Andrus, after listening to List's speech, said at a news conference that he would insist that "all legal requirements be met" in determining the environmental impact of the missile project.

"The Bureau of Land Management will be no more silent on this application than it would on any other. They'll be as thorough as they would be on a coal mining permit."

Santini's MX Study Bid Approved

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress' Office of Technology Assessment has agreed to Rep. Jim Santini's request for a study of the MX missile system and basing alternatives, Santini announced today.

The Nevada congressman and 28 colleagues called for the study by OTA, an independent technical research organization of Congress, in order to assess the impacts and cost-effectiveness of the massive weapons system, proposed for the Great Basin area of Nevada and Utah.

"We've had a lot of studies already, primarily by the Defense Department and its contractors," Santini explained, "but Congress has never before had an independent technical assessment that it can use to make an

enlightened decision on this expensive and — for Nevada — momentous system."

The OTA staff proposed to gather and present the facts necessary for an understanding of the risks, costs and benefits of each MX plan and the strategic consequences of each. In terms of cost they will not only study dollar costs but will consider environmental impact, economic dislocation and changes in lifestyle of people in the effected region, Santini said.

The staff plan calls for the study to be ready for congressional briefing in January 1981 and completion of the project by April 1981.

Senate OKs MX study amendment

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Despite opposition by the Defense Department, an amendment to a defense bill requiring the military to study MX basing sites outside of Nevada and Utah was overwhelmingly approved Wednesday by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The amendment, sponsored by Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon, allows the military to construct the first half of the system — 2,300 shelters — in the Nevada-Utah desert.

However, Congress would withhold a decision on locating the remaining 2,300 shelters until the administration presented a "comprehensive study" of potential basing sites outside of the Nevada-Utah Great Basin.

New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle have been mentioned as alternative

basing areas.

The Cannon amendment to the 1981 Defense Authorization Bill does not necessarily guarantee Nevada and Utah would not end up with the entire system. The defense study could determine that no other areas are suitable for the other shelters.

"But there can no longer be any question about how thorough a study the Air Force is going to make (of sites outside Nevada-Utah) because in order to get approval of the second half of the system they have to prove that it couldn't be put anywhere else," a Cannon aide said.

Cannon was optimistic that the amendment would temper opposition to the MX system among Nevada residents and a number of congressmen.

"I would hope this will lessen the concerns of some of the people, be-

cause now they won't have 4,600 shelters shoved down their throats." Cannon said shortly after the 14-3 committee vote.

Just last week, the progress of the Cannon amendment was jeopardized by Defense Secretary Harold Brown, who testified that he "could not accept" Cannon's amendment.

Brown's opposition caught Cannon by surprise, because the senator's staff members had worked out details of the amendment with high-ranking Defense Department and Air Force officials. Brown was in Europe at the time and when he returned he made it clear that he would not endorse the split-basing concept.

"He (Brown) felt it was too restrictive and he was concerned that it might send the wrong signal to the

Russians—that 2,300 shelters were all that we planned to build." Cannon said of Brown's testimony.

"If the Senate passes this authorization bill, I think there would be no question that the system would be built," said Cannon. "This (bill) pretty much limits the alternatives, in my judgment and limits it to the linear system."

The linear—or "dragstrip"—system would shuttle the 200 missiles along a vertical path of 4,600 missiles, creating a "shell game" for the Soviets to guess which shelters contained warheads. The theory behind the "shell game" concept is that it would make the system less vulnerable to attack because the Soviets would have to knock out all the shelters to guard against retaliation.

RJ 6-12-80

MX expansion studied

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Defense Department is making engineering studies of ways to expand the MX missile system if the Soviet Union were to add to its nuclear arsenal, said Seymour L. Zeiberg, deputy undersecretary of defense.

He said there are three options:

—Add to the 200 missiles in the system as planned.

—Keep the system at 200 missiles but add to the 4,600 shelters among which the missiles would be rotated.

—Increasing both missiles and shelters.

Engineering studies, expected to be completed in September,

will help planners settle on which growth plan would be appropriate, Zeiberg said Friday after speaking engagements in Utah the day before.

In an extreme situation, there could be 7,000 shelters, he said.

If missiles were added, they might be 100 more built and deployed, he said.

The Defense Department's decision last month to change the pattern of shelters, which the military would like to build in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada, from the closed-loop (racetrack) scheme to a straight-line, or grid system.

MX opponents have said the change was made to facilitate

expansion of the system.

Zeiberg said that was the result but not the motivation.

He said the change was made because it offered better engineering at \$3 billion less cost.

He said it followed that the grid system, using less land, made expansion easier.

Zeiberg said the Soviet Union is expected to have 6,000 ICBM warheads by 1985 or 1986.

"If they go beyond that, we might be forced to follow — either more missiles or shelters or a combination of both," he said.

If there were 8,000 Soviet warheads "we would react by building missiles and shelters," he said.

RJ 6-15-80

Archaeologists to look for artifacts in MX area

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — About 25 Utah archaeologists are scheduled to leave Monday for the Great Basin area to look for artifacts that could be damaged

by construction of the MX missile system.

David B. Madsen, state archaeologist, said the group will conduct a sample survey during the next two months of

about 1 percent of the area proposed as the site for the \$33.8 billion project.

Madsen said at the same time, a group of 30 archaeologists would be participating in the survey in Nevada. Although they will work independently, the two groups have agreed on a research design model.

A few areas of archaeological significance in the area are already known, such as 11,000 to 12,000-year-old caves located near Wendover on the Utah-Nevada border, Madsen said.

The archaeologists are under contract with the Air Force.

Congress Expected To OK Missile Bill

Legislation that will lift the oft-debated MX missile program off the drawing boards is expected to reach the floors of Congress within the next few weeks, and a high-ranking Defense Department official Monday expressed confidence that it will pass.

"The House has expressed strong support for the program," said Dr. Seymour L. Zeiberg, deputy under-secretary of defense for research and engineering. "And members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, with whom I met last week, expressed equal enthusiasm."

The legislation, if passed,

would provide the Defense Department with \$1.6 billion during the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 for basing and testing of the missile and equipment, Zeiberg said.

When the system is fully deployed in 1989, it will have cost the public an estimated \$34 billion.

"What's ahead? Next month, we'll have the draft environmental impact statement," Zeiberg said. "It'll be about as thick as I am tall — a mass of data."

The impact statement looks at what effect the MX missile system will have on its deployment area.

RJ 6-15-80

Group pleads to List

An alliance of anti-MX groups in Nevada called Tuesday for Gov. Robert List to come out in opposition to the proposed missile system being placed in Nevada and Utah.

A spokesman for the Great Basin No MX alliance said List should follow the lead of Utah Gov. Scott Matheson and go on record as formally opposing the proposed missile system.

Matheson announced his opposition to the system Monday, saying it would not meet national defense needs.

The Utah governor suggested modifying the existing Minuteman missile system, eventually replacing Minuteman missiles in hardened, vertical silos with the new MX missile.

Spokesman Bill Vincent said the alliance, which is composed of about 20 anti-MX groups, welcomed Matheson's statements.

"We laud him for his position," Vincent said. "We would like to see a united front between Utah and Nevada on this."

SUN 6-17-80

RJ 6-17-80

Official: MX plan must stay flexible

By Joanne Townsend
R-J Staff Writer

The proposed MX missile system will be designed so more missiles and shelters can be added if necessary, a defense official studying the project said Monday.

However, that expansion depends on Soviet actions and it is not known whether a build-up will be necessary or how big the system might have to be, said Seymour L. Zeiberg, deputy undersecretary of defense.

Zeiberg said if there was an increase in Soviet forces, the government would be prompted to add to the 200 missiles now proposed, build more than the 4,600 planned shelters or do a combination of those two options.

A report on the options, the costs of each and their feasibility is expected in September, he said.

Zeiberg discussed the MX system during an interview in Las Vegas.

Zeiberg said the expansion could include as many as 7,000 shelters, but it would not take up any more space in the valleys of Nevada and Utah, the preferred sites for the system. He said "gaps" will be left in the original layout and the main roads will be longer than initially required so the additions could be made if needed.

The Pentagon official also said the number of shelters

would not exceed 7,000 because that would mean the Soviets had gone beyond the bounds of SALT II. If that was done, the United States would be allowed to impose a "defense overlay," he said.

The defense overlay would be an "interceptor missile" radar system that would shoot down

Soviet warheads heading toward U.S. missiles, he said. That would in turn require the Russians to have twice as many warheads to achieve a single attack, he said.

Zeiberg said a prototype of that interlay already is being designed so it can be put into the field quickly. He added that

if such a system was deployed, the Russians would immediately need to double their forces, a cost that would be too "enormous" for them to even consider.

The defense engineer also said some of the extra missiles could be placed in other states if Con-

gress adopts the split basing deployment method recently recommended by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He said the Texas-New Mexico deployment site — the only other site undergoing serious consideration — is receiving the same full-blown environmental study that Nevada and Utah are getting.

"There is no military or technical reason they can't split the system. The only argument is cost. It is just a \$3 billion problem," he said. He added that there would be complications with communications and the additional impact of the system, but such problems could be solved with a little extra money.

The so-called Cannon amendment — introduced by Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon — limits to one-half the number of missiles that can be put in Nevada and Utah and requires a full study of the Texas-New Mexico site. Zeiberg said the amendment has also helped convince the public that the other site is being studied "thoughtfully and cautiously."

"People think we are ramrodding this (system) down their throats. They don't realize the amount of environmental and socioeconomic work that is going on. (This amendment) makes it more apparent to the public," he said. "It builds public confidence and shows we are not hip-shooting."

Utah governor opposes entire MX missile plan

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah Gov. Scott Matheson formally announced opposition to the MX missile system Monday as proposed by President Carter, saying it would not meet national defense needs.

He suggested modifying the existing Minuteman III missile system, eventually replacing Minuteman missiles in hardened, vertical silos with the new MX missile.

Additional silos could be built, he said, to give the United States the number of warheads needed to maintain a nuclear deterrent. He said the missiles could also be shuffled back and forth between different silos, as proposed in the MX.

He said the modified Minuteman system could be on line before the MX, and it would cost less. It could also be built to conform to the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, Matheson said.

Matheson previously demanded the White House answer questions about the proposed MX deployment in Utah, but he says the government has not provided information as promised on at least a dozen issues.

He said correspondence with the Council on

Environmental Quality now indicates it will "roll over for the Air Force on this one," and not apply stringent criteria when it reviews the military's environmental impact statement on the project.

The governor observed the study is due in a matter of five weeks, and some subcontractors have not even started work on it yet.

Matheson told a news conference the Carter administration is making too many demands of Utah. He said the state will be needed by the nation to achieve energy independence and for production of vital minerals.

He said the state should not be expected to provide a home for a massive weapons system like the MX, too.

Matheson said Utah's resources cannot accommodate all those programs. He said the energy role is enough. "Every time I try to get Washington to discuss the different demands made on the state, I get nowhere," he said.

The governor said at least three alternatives to the MX should be considered.

RJ 6-17-80

City seeks lump MX grants

The Las Vegas City Commission will ask the federal government to supply only lump sums of money to ease the social impact of the MX missile system in Nevada.

City Manager Russell Dorn said grants earmarked by the federal government for specific purposes would be delayed by legislative confusion and red tape. He said block grants administered through only one agency would streamline assistance efforts.

The commission on Wednesday adopted the resolution, which will be sent to the Nevada congressional delegation for consideration. Similar resolutions are being drafted by local governments statewide.

Commissioner Ron Laurie also directed the city staff to ask the Air Force to establish a Las Vegas office for release of MX information. He said local officials who need such information presently must contact the Carson City office, unnecessarily consuming time and money.

In other action during Wednesday's meeting, the commission unanimously approved a resolution proposed at its last meeting favoring continuation of a joint city and county police force.

The resolution specifies a 10-year life for the Metropolitan Police Department, to begin after Clark County officials and Sheriff John McCarthy dismiss their ap-

peals of a District Court ruling that the department was created unconstitutionally.

Commissioner Paul Christensen for the first time voted in favor of legislation supporting the Metropolitan Police Department, though he said he deplored the department's lack of ability to reduce crime and save money.

The commission also:
— Appointed 26-year Las Vegas resident Maggie Coleman to her third four-year term on the Planning Commission.

— Approved fire-

works sales permits for 47 charitable and non-profit organizations planning Fourth of July fund-raisers.

— Sent to committee a bill requiring that street addresses be posted conspicuously on all buildings or permitted signs.

— Sent to committee a bill making adjustments to the number of children who may be cared for in group child-care homes.

— Voted to contract with the Nevada Department of Transportation for distribution of

federal funds to repair and replace obsolete bridges in the city. The Department of Transportation has been designated as the administering agency in Nevada for the Federal Highway Aid program.

MX sites may be revealed

The Air Force could reveal where it intends specifically to place the MX missile system during a meeting Monday in Tonopah of the state Legislature's committee studying MX matters.

"We hope they give us some specific information. If they don't, how can we plan for the MX?" said Sen. Richard Blakemore, D-Tonopah.

Blakemore chairs the Special Committee on MX, the group selected to study the impact of the \$56 billion MX system on Nevada. The committee investigates only the effect of the system on the state, not the military need for the project.

"The people in my district are 50-50 for or against the MX," added Blakemore, who represents a 45,000-square-mile district covering most of the proposed site of the missile system.

He said most of the MX support comes from Clark County business leaders who envision the missile system as "another Mercury."

"We haven't gotten anything out of the Air Force about where anything will be," Blakemore said. "How can we plan for it when we don't know?"

Until the military becomes more specific, Blakemore says, rural Nevadans can't plan properly for the influx of workers and the need for utilities, schools and roads.

RJ 6-19-80

MX Coordinator Uncertain Of Impact

The Southern Nevada coordinator for the proposed MX missile project conceded Sunday federal officials do not have solid answers to the impact the multi-billion dollar project would have on the people of Nevada and Utah.

Richard Atwater, MX coordinator for Clark, Lincoln and Nye Counties, appearing on the Channel 8 TV "On The Record" show, said:

"There are times when communications are not the best and there is need for improvement between feder-

al, state and local governments."

He acknowledged that one or more of the main MX bases would be two times as large as Nellis Air Force Base and each main base would have a community of between six and nine thousand

people.

"During peak construction in the middle 1980s, the work force would be between 15 and 20,000 and we're talking about a community of between 30 and 40 thousand people."

He said that one of the

main bases would be located either in Nevada or Utah and noted that it was important that the Air Force look at all viable alternatives.

"In 30 years, Nevada governments would still have the water rights."

SUN 6-23-80

Unified stand on MX sought

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

TONOPAH — Gov. Robert List and Nevada's congressional delegation were urged Monday to stop working at cross purposes and prepare a unified MX strategy which will bring Nevada economic gains.

Sen. James Gibson, D-Henderson, called for List to meet with U.S. Sens. Howard Cannon, Paul Laxalt and Rep. James Santini to formulate a statewide MX strategy.

"We are dissipating what political clout we have" said Gibson, the state senate's majority leader. "The state needs a strategy. Up to now it appears the strategy has been to oppose it, delay it. I don't agree with any of that."

State Sen. Kieth Ashworth, D-Las Vegas, reiterated Gibson's comments, saying: "Both the national officials and the governor should be saying the same thing, not each projecting personal comments."

The two legislators made their statements during a meeting of the Legislature's Special Committee on MX Matters. Gibson said Nevadans recognize the country needs the \$56 billion MX missile system for "national security."

"We need to get together. If we don't Utah will end up with the main base and Nevada with the obligations," Gibson added.

Ashworth claimed Nevada is losing out on getting the main base because "the state leaders are going in different directions."

"It's here and we'd better accept it. If we don't, Utah will get the economic benefits and we'll get what's left," Ashworth added.

The two Clark County senators made their pro-MX comments after Bob Broadbent, a Clark County Commissioner testified Utah is "far ahead" of Nevada in planning for the MX.

"If it's coming we better get out and get ready. And I don't see us getting ready," Broadbent said. "Ne-

vada may be stuck with two-thirds of the missiles and it looks like the main base will be in Utah. The fault is at the top."

However, Steve Bradhurst, newly appointed state MX coordinator, said what happens in the "political arena" should not be a major factor when the Air Force selects a site for the main MX base.

"They need a base that is functional," he said.

Bradhurst said Utah has not yet picked a best site for a main base out of the three now being considered in the state. Utah plans, however, to rate the three sites in a July meeting, Bradhurst said.

Nevada's problem is that rural counties like Nye and Lincoln lack the population base and therefore don't have planners or the planning bureaucracy.

"They have nothing in Lincoln County," Bradhurst said. "Nevada is the worst place in terms of ability to take care of this facility."

Clark County business and labor leaders have been pushing to locate the MX main base in the Coyote Springs-Kane Springs area, a Lincoln County site about 70 miles north of Las Vegas. This base could be twice the size of Nellis Air Force Base.

The fight over where the main base will go already has developed into "a competition between metropolitan Las Vegas and Salt Lake City," said Richard Atwater, coordinator for the MX Local Government Oversight Committee.

President Carter may not choose the base site until December, said Lt. Col. Carl Rule, a special assistant for MX matters at the Pentagon.

The preliminary environmental impact statement, a document which may run 3,000 pages, will not be released until July 18.

Rule said the Air Force now intends to put its 200-missile, 4,600-shelter MX system in 30 valleys in Ne-

vada and Utah. Originally the Air Force said 50 valleys might be used.

The environmental

impact statement also will address the placing of half of the MX system in New Mexico and Texas.

"It's not the final decision, it's just the beginning," Rule said about the environmental statement.

RJ 6-24-80

MX panel approves base site

Members of the MX Oversight Committee unanimously approved a resolution this weekend in Caliente calling for the Air Force to put its main MX system operating base in Kane Springs.

This Lincoln County site is located just north of the Clark County line.

"I am pretty sure it will be late November or December at the earliest before they announce the site location," said MX coordinator Richard Atwater.

List Slaps Broadbent On Election-Year 'Hogwash'

CARSON CITY (UPI) — An angry Gov. Robert List said critics of his administration over the issue of the MX missile were playing election year politics and he singled out Clark County Commissioner Bob Broadbent, saying his statements were "hogwash and he knows it."

The governor met with three state legislators about complaints and then told newsmen, "I'm not going to stand by and have a whole lot of election-year rhetoric thrown around and see this issue politicalized."

"Our policy and strategy has been consistent and un-

derstandable and fully stated throughout Nevada for several months," List said. "I expect responsible public officials to recognize that."

"After our discussion, we should see a reduction in the cheap shots department," said the governor.

At a meeting this week in Tonopah of the special legislative committee on the MX there was criticism of the List administration. Broadbent said List was not preparing the state for the MX missile system. Broadbent complained the governor was spending a lot of time opposing it but none to mitigate the impact.

Sen. Keith Ashworth, D-Las Vegas, said List has jumped from one side to the other on the issue and Senate Majority Leader James Gibson said the state should adopt a positive attitude and not continue the delaying game.

Gibson, Sen. Rick Blakemore, D-Tonopah, and Assemblyman Bob Barengo, D-Reno, met with List behind closed doors for more than an hour Wednesday. Blakemore and Gibson said later the administration was doing more than they thought in preparing for the possible effects of MX.

Blakemore complained the news media was trying to create a rift between the lawmakers and List. He said he was not totally happy with past planning efforts but was satisfied now that the new MX Director Steve Bradhurst was aboard.

Gibson said he was concerned the state was not doing anything to set up contingency plans and to prepare for the MX. But he said after meeting with the governor he was assured the state was working on these efforts.

Gibson said he hadn't had the information before but that may have been his fault because "maybe I didn't ask the right questions."

List complained these legislators meet once a month and get an attack of anxiety at the session while his ad-

ministration is handling the problems on a day-to-day basis.

"When I pressed them (the legislators) for examples about the lack of planning, the only area they could cite was the transportation," said List. "When we told them what we were doing, they seemed satisfied." Blakemore and Gibson did say they were satisfied.

On Broadbent, List said, "He's running for election. He's running all over the state and the country trying to get his name in the papers. I'm not going to vary my policies to meet Broadbent's notions."

List said he confronted Blakemore in the meeting about remark the senator made that the governor was "vacillating." The governor then quoted Blakemore as saying that other people thought that.

List complained it was like fighting ghosts.

Blakemore complained that most of the comments attributed to him at the meeting were statements made by Broadbent which he

was repeating. But Blakemore, after being pressed, said he agreed with some of Broadbent's statements.

"The committee did tend

to agree," said Blakemore, who is chairman of the subcommittee. "Every effort will be made to work together and there will be no rift."

On the MX itself, List said

it was the burden of the Carter administration and the Air Force to show its need, to show it should be placed in Nevada, to justify its basing mode and to take

care of the impacts.

"If I had my druthers, it would go somewhere else," said List, who added that that decision will be up to Congress.

MX Missile System Discussion Slated

The proposed MX missile system and its impact of public lands is a scheduled topic of discussion Thursday and Friday during the National

Public Lands Advisory Council meeting in Salt Lake City.

Clark County Commissioner Thalia Dondero, with Pamela Crowell of Reno, will represent Nevada on the council.

Also scheduled for review will be wilderness legislation and the storage of toxic and hazardous wastes.

The 17-member council is appointed by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus to advise him and Bureau of Land Management director Frank Gregg on public land matters.

Utah Gov. Scott Matheson will open the meeting with an address on his views of public land management in the West.

Labor Organizations To Back MX Program

RENO (UPI) — Organized labor will show its support of the MX missile project when a leader presents a petition bearing 20,000 signatures to Sen. Howard Cannon Friday.

Stan Jones, head of the Northern Nevada Central Labor Council, said the petition will be presented shortly before Cannon chairs a Senate Commerce Committee field hearing in Reno on national mineral policies.

Officials deny major differences on missile

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Gov. Robert List and spokesmen for Sens. Paul Laxalt and Howard Cannon on Wednesday denied they have major personal differences over the MX missile system.

They also said they had no objection to attending an MX summit meeting requested this week by a Nevada legislative subcommittee.

Members of Legislature's Special Committee on MX Matters urged the Washington officials to meet with List and formulate a unified MX strategy.

State Sen. Keith Ashworth, D-Las Vegas, said the state's top political leaders have been working at cross purposes over the MX. He demanded they start speaking in the same voice and "not each project personal comments."

In particular, Clark County members of the subcommittee, Ashworth and Sen. James Gibson, D-Henderson, urged List and the leaders in Washington to try to get as much economic benefit out of the \$56 billion missile system as possible.

Sen. Richard Blakemore, D-Tonopah,

said the MX summit should come after the July 18 release of the draft environmental impact statement on the MX.

County Commissioner Bob Broadbent, who attended the meeting, said Utah apparently will get the main MX base because of the indecisiveness of the top Nevada leaders.

"We deal with the MX on a daily basis," List responded. "Once a month they get together. Maybe they OD'd?"

He said Broadbent and Ashworth were doing election year politicking with their comments.

"It's a political year and some people are starting to run," List said. "I don't like the MX dragged into the political arena."

The governor said he talks regularly about the MX with the Washington legislators. In recent months, List said he has met several times in Washington with the legislators.

"We are all working on the same wavelength," List added. "We all recognize the need for a strong national defense."

Staff members for Cannon and Laxalt denied the senators have been working in

opposite directions, but they said they had no objection to an MX summit meeting.

"They already had a meeting together," added Mike Verneti, press secretary for Cannon.

On Feb. 27, the Washington delegation and List issued a joint press release asking the Pentagon to give Nevadans more time to respond to the soon-to-be released draft environmental statement on the MX. The statement also said the group supported serious consideration of putting at least some of the system in states other than Nevada or Utah.

"The governor felt 60 days to respond was not enough," Verneti said. "We supported six months."

"Our concerns are the same," added Debbie Dicks, a press aide to Laxalt. "We all agree we need a strong defense."

If Nevada were told it officially was getting the MX, then Laxalt would demand the state gets economic benefits, she added.

"Whatever state bears the burden should reap the benefits," Dicks said.

RJ 6-26-80

Irate over 'cheap shots'

List discusses plans for MX

CARSON CITY (AP) — An irate Gov. Robert List huddled privately Wednesday with key legislators and apparently succeeded in convincing them he was planning properly for the controversial MX missile system.

After the closed-door meeting, List said he hoped to see "a reduction in the cheap-shot department" from critics of his MX policies. He also termed remarks of one critic — Clark County Commissioner

Bob Broadbent — "hogwash" and "election-year rhetoric."

List and top aides met with Senate Majority Leader Jim Gibson, D-Henderson, Assemblyman Bob Barengo, D-Reno, and Sen. Rick Blakemore, D-Tonopah, chairman of a special legislative MX committee.

The session was scheduled after a meeting Monday of Blakemore's committee in Tonopah where List was accused of "vacillat-

ing" on MX. The strongest criticism came from Broadbent, although Blakemore had said he thought most of the committee felt the same way.

But after meeting with List, Blakemore said he thought "the media" had been trying to create a split between the governor and the Legislature. He said he was satisfied with List's comments on his MX planning efforts.

Blakemore also said "every effort will be made" to avoid future

rifts with the governor's office. But he also said Nevada's planning efforts may still be a bit behind Utah's efforts. The two states are prime sites for the massive missile project.

Sen. Gibson said he too was "reassured" by what the governor, state Planning Coordinator Bob Hill and List's MX director, Steve Bradhurst, had to say about the planning.

Gibson noted, for example, more information was provided on planning for highways

which might be needed if most of the MX system is built in Nevada.

Asked whether there had been communication problems before the meeting with the governor, Gibson said "maybe we hadn't asked the right questions before." He also described List as "upset, probably with some justification."

List said his policy and strategy on MX "has been consistent and understandable and fully stated throughout Nevada for several months."

RJ 6-26-80

Sub-based MX idea criticized

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Proposals to deploy MX missiles in fleets of small submarines are technically not feasible, a new Navy study has concluded.

Air Force Brig. Gen. James P. McCarthy, a Pentagon MX special assistant, told the Bonneville Kiwanis Club Wednesday that much larger submarines would be required to bear the MX.

McCarthy said the Navy's findings repre-

Regional news

sent opposition even stronger than that in the Defense Department study earlier this year.

The Shallow Underwater Mobile (SUM) proposal has been advanced by opponents to deployment of the MX

in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada. It was one of three alternatives Gov. Scott Matheson mentioned in announcing his opposition to the Great Basin deployment.

The proposal calls for small subs to carry two

to four missiles each and patrol in a 200-mile strip about 100 miles off the east and west coasts.

The proponents said the submarines are available from German manufacturers.

McCarthy said those manufacturers told the Navy the conversion is still problematical.

He said the Navy

concluded there would be significant technological risk to planning on larger subs.

He said the study also said the method would cost more than land-based MX missiles, and the earliest SUM could be operational would be 1992 — while the administration plans to have the first 10 land-based MX missiles in place in 1986 and the rest by 1990.

RJ 6-26-80

MX contractors seek, open Las Vegas offices

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Several major aerospace corporations which hold contracts for the MX missile system already have sought locations for Las Vegas offices.

Martin Marietta Corp., the company which will assemble the missile, this week opened a small office on Charleston Boulevard. Boeing seeks a 300,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, and Rockwell Corp. also has been looking for a Clark County office. Another MX contractor, GTE Sylvania Corp., should break ground later on its planned Henderson facility.

"Eventually we will have several thousand people working in our assembly area," said Don Gray, a Martin Marietta official in

Denver, Colo., who has been managing MX matters.

Gray has been acting as a coordinator for 11 major corporations who may open Las Vegas operations if the \$56 billion MX missile system is awarded to Nevada.

"Nevada is certainly one of the prime candidates," Gray said. "It is highly likely the state will get at least some of the system. We are trying to prepare ourselves."

A draft environmental impact statement on the missile system, designed to take away the Soviets' possible first strike advantage over the United States, will be released July 18. A final decision on where the MX will go may be made in December by President Carter.

"The decision could be made sooner," Gray added.

The Martin Marietta official said he has been working closely with Tim Carlson, the executive director of the Nevada Development Authority, in acquiring Las Vegas facilities.

"Las Vegas has not been known to sit on its haunches," Carlson said. "If the MX is going to be thrust on us, let's make sure the companies are welcome and will remain."

Two months ago a group of seven community organizations, including the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, approved a resolution which asks the Pentagon to put the main base of the MX system at the Kane Springs-Coyote Springs site about 70 miles north of Las Vegas.

See MX,
Page 3A

—MX—

From Page 1A

economy isn't known.

systems for the MX.

"Now is the time to make a move," Carlson said. "We want these people to remain, not leave six or eight years from now. We want the community to come together. If we don't treat them properly, then they have every right to leave our community."

Aerospace companies would offer highly technical jobs at large salaries, he said. But the amount of money the MX system would bring to the Las Vegas

"It's too early to speak of numbers," Carlson said. "Las Vegas will be affected no matter if the main base is in Ely or in Utah. It's the closest metropolitan area."

GTE Sylvania was one of 12 companies recruited to Clark County by the NDA in the last year. The company will be making a lithium battery in its Henderson plant to supply the Minuteman missile. Sylvania later may prepare communications

Martin Marietta already has been selected to direct the January 1983 tests of the MX missile at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. After these tests are concluded, then the system actually will be constructed.

Gray said only "low-key activities" will be carried out at Martin Marietta's Las Vegas office.

"It gives us an opportunity to be closer to where the actual site will be," he said.

RJ 7-2-80

Rally slated by 'NO MX'

ELY — A statewide rally of the Nevadans opposed to MX is tentatively set for the weekend of October 4 in Ely. Before then, the members of the Ely "NO MX" group plan to join forces with the Great Basin MX Alliance, an anti-MX group based in Baker, in a number of fund raising projects. The projects discussed at a meeting of the Ely "NO MX" group ranged from selling sponges with "NO MX" printed on them, to having a "NO MX day" on Murry Summit. This gathering would include music from local bands, refreshments, and "NO MX" information. The date set for the picnic-concert is July 19. Joe Griggs, a member of the Great Basin MX Alliance, said, "The United States Air Force would like to believe that there is no opposition to MX, but obviously there is. We have to make a lot of noise and let them know that we are in opposition." Griggs sighted several methods of raising the nation's consciousness that were inexpensive, such as writing letters to, and telephoning congressmen. "We can't afford to let things slide by," Griggs explained. "If Laxalt says something that is not right, we have to jump on it. We have to let them know that we don't agree." Griggs said there are signs that the rest of the nation is becoming more aware of the opposition based in the Great Basin.

RJ 7-6-80

Mark Russell

MX On The Highways

Still in possession of the vision and imagination of an astronaut, Sen. John Glenn proposed that, as part of the MX missile program, the missiles be located in trucks traveling the interstate highways.

We can assume the senator considered the possibility of one of those things going off. In which case, it would be pretty hard to catch up with a tractor and trailer doing 900 in a 55-mph zone.

Perhaps Sen. Glenn originally had in mind shooting the missile-bearing 18-wheeler into outer space. Then they would have to recruit waitresses for the dawning of a new era — orbital truck stops.

• • •

Then when the Russians attempted to track our MX system, all they'd pick up would be country music and the sound of potatoes frying in deep fat.

I know this all sounds ridiculous. However, the difference between Senator Glenn and myself is that I'm kidding and he isn't.

For some strange reason, Glenn's colleagues in the Senate rejected his proposal. At last report, the missiles will be camouflaged to resemble golden arches.

RJ 7-14-80

Submarine base for MX 'feasible'

WASHINGTON (AP) - A new study says construction of a small fleet of submarines for MX missiles is "feasible" although there are "many technical problems" that would need to be solved before the MX could be shifted from its

present, and much-criticized, proposed site on land.

The report, released Monday, was done for the Pentagon by the Navy Sea Systems Command and two firms, System Planning Corp., and Lockheed Missiles & Space Co.

Currently, Pentagon plans for the \$33.8 billion MX system call for hiding some 200 missiles among 4,600 shelters in Nevada and Utah. But residents of those states have criticized the plan.

Monday's report estimated that 50 small submarines carrying MX missiles in external capsules would cost about \$1.7 billion more than the land system and be ready six years later.

RJ 7-15-80

MX impact statement delayed

R-J Washington
Bureau

WASHINGTON — The environmental impact statement on the MX missile system which was supposed to be released this month will be delayed until later this summer, the Air Force announced Tuesday.

"The additional time will allow officials to more closely study new split-basing options and design improvements which would reduce both the length of roads required and size of the missile shelters," Air Force officials said in a written statement.

The study would contain information and recommendations for construction of the MX system. The original plan called for 4600 shelters and 200 missiles to be located in Nevada and Utah and placed on the racetrack basing mode.

Objections from members of Congress and residents of Nevada and Utah forced the Air Force to reconsider the location of the missile sites and type of basing mode.

The Air Force agreed this spring to look at alternate missile site locations in west Texas and eastern New Mexico. It also was decided that the racetrack was not the best choice for basing and a linear basing mode should also be studied.

The Air Force says it needs more time to study the possibility of basing half the MX system in Nevada and Utah, and the other half

in Texas and New Mexico.

"Work on the EIS is continuing at an accelerated pace," according to the Air Force statement.

This delay in the release of the study will not cut into the 90-day period required for public comment on the report. The public comment period is scheduled to begin as soon as the report is released. If the Air Force sticks to this

deadline, then the 90 days set aside for public reaction will run out just in time for Congress to consider the final study late this year or early in the next congressional session.

RJ 7.16.1980

General says MX assessment will take time



GEN. MCCARTHY
...MX man

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Brig. Gen. James McCarthy said Tuesday the upcoming study on the effects of the MX missile system won't contain answers to many questions Nevadans have asked.

"People expect us to answer questions when we won't have the answers for several years," said McCarthy, the Air Force's special assistant for MX matters, during a swing through Las Vegas.

Many Nevada leaders, particularly those in Lincoln and White Pine counties, have expressed concerns the MX sys-

tem will change their lifestyle. A committee has been formed to determine what changes in schools, sewer and water systems, among other areas, will brought by the MX.

"We're as equally concerned about the impact on the environment as Nevadans," McCarthy said. "We're going to be living in that environment. Our kids are going to go to those schools."

Maj. Ron Huff has been assigned to work out of the state's MX Field Office in Carson City as the Air Force liaison for state and local matters, he added.

The draft environmental impact statement on the controversial missile system won't be ready until "late summer," McCarthy added. The Air Force planned to release the study this week, but a Santa Barbara, Calif., firm preparing the study has been analyzing more information than originally anticipated, he said. "We are not going to release information we aren't satisfied is correct," McCarthy said. "Many expect the environmental impact statement to go into great detail. It won't cover all the Air Force can do, but it will give the

depth to make decisions now."

The Air Force remains committed to giving the impact aid necessary to rural Nevada counties which may be affected by the missile system, he added.

"We don't know the costs of that impact. The draft environmental statement won't say. It's a process which will take several years," McCarthy said.

Instead, the upcoming study will tell how the MX will affect the environment and what steps can be taken to lessen

the impact, he said.

"The impact statement can best be judged after it's published," the general added. "If people aren't satisfied, then they should tell us what other information we should include."

The Air Force will conduct a 90-day public comment period once the study is released. Some hearings will be conducted in Las Vegas.

The study also will show what impact of putting half the MX system in New Mexico and Texas. The Air Force still wants to put all of the 200-missile system in Nevada and Utah, McCarthy said.

McCarthy, 45, was assigned to his MX job on

May 1. He holds a master's degree in international affairs and has been in the Air Force for 22 years.

Although both Newsweek and the Washington Post have reported the MX may have a hard fight getting through Congress, McCarthy is optimistic.

"There have been a number of Congressional votes on the system,

including one for \$1.6 billion in technical costs. All of the votes have shown significant support for the system."

The Republican Party also supported a mobile intercontinental ballistic missile system in its platform.

"There's no inconsistencies with the Republican platform and the MX system," McCarthy said.

RS 7.16.1980

Study on MX may be 'rushed'

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

State MX coordinator Steve Bradhurst doesn't believe the yet-to-be-released draft environmental study on the controversial missile system will be complete or adequate.

"I don't have high hopes for it. It is definitely a rushed job," Bradhurst said during a Tuesday stop in Las Vegas for talks with city and UNLV officials. "I'm convinced there's a state of confusion at the Pentagon."

The Air Force had planned to release the mammoth, 2,000-3,000 page draft environmental impact statement on July 18. It probably won't be released until

early August, Bradhurst said.

When the report is released, a series of public hearings will be held around the state and in Utah. The Air Force had planned a 70-day public hearing period; but a military construction bill now in Congress asks for a 90-day response time.

"A reasonable man would at least give Nevada 90 days to respond to the project," Bradhurst said.

Gov. Robert List wants the answers to at least three questions before he will give unqualified support to the \$56 billion MX system, Bradhurst said.

"The governor is asking the Air Force to re-

spond to our concerns," Bradhurst said. "Prove the horizontal basing mode is best. Prove the system has to be only in Nevada and Utah. Identify the adverse impacts on Nevada and then mitigate them."

Criticism of the governor's MX stand is unfair, Bradhurst said. List only wants to make sure Nevada is protected if the missile system comes to the Silver State, he added.

"We've asked the Air Force for the last three months for a table of contents of the draft environmental impact statement and we haven't received it yet," Bradhurst continued. "There's too many actors in this program."



S. BRADHURST
...state MX official

As yet Bradhurst doesn't see how Nevada would benefit from the

MX system economically. Any military bases built in conjunction with the project would not be taxable, he said.

"Gov. List is not going to embrace the MX. He's aware of the adverse impacts," Bradhurst added.

So far List, however, is the only governor in any of the states being considered for the project who has not come out in complete opposition. Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, New Mexico Gov. Bruce King and Texas Gov. William Clements all opposing putting the project in their states.

The draft impact statement will consider various alternate sites for the system, includ-

See MX,

MX

From Page 5A

ing in New Mexico and Texas. The Pentagon, however, has come out strongly in favor of Nevada-Utah location. Some spokesmen say 3,200 of the 4,600 missile shelters eventually will be built in valleys in central Nevada.

While the Clark County business community has been pushing for the building of the MX operating base at Kane Springs, off Highway 93 just inside Lincoln County, Bradhurst said he has no indication it will go there. A Strategic Air Command report issued earlier this month rated Beryl, Utah as the No. 1 site for the main base, while an Ely location was rated No. 2.

"We have nothing definite yet about the location of either the main base or the operating base," Bradhurst said.

The election of Re-

publican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan at least initially would not change the duties of the MX coordinating committees in Nevada, Bradhurst said.

"My impression is Reagan wants to get something on fast," Bradhurst said.

William Van Cleve, a University of Southern California professor who sometimes advises Reagan, has indicated he doesn't favor the shell game MX system the Pentagon has proposed.

The national Republican platform expresses support of the MX system without describing its form. Reagan said he opposes SALT II because it lets both the United States and the Soviet Union increase their arms. Reagan has said, however, that he would try to negotiate an arms limitation treaty with the Soviets.

"Who sits in the Oval

Office doesn't change my job. Carter or Reagan could kill the MX. The best we can do is assess what's happening and gear up for it," Bradhurst said.

Bradhurst, 37, was selected by List to oversee MX matters. The Reno resident is a native of Washington, D.C. and the holder of a bachelor's degree in planning and a master's degree in geology.

He moved to Nevada 10 years ago to pursue his master's at the Mackay School of Mines at UNR. Bradhurst served as the assistant director of planning for the Regional Planning Commission in Washoe County before taking the MX job on May 28.

"I never met List until I walked in his office and we talked about the position. I'm not a political animal."

Bradhurst took the MX position because he feels it is "the most

challenging planning job in the nation."

"What the governor wanted is a technician who has a fire foundation in environmental assessment," he said. "List wants someone who can look at the MX project with a jaundiced eye."

At least once every week Bradhurst meets with List and his management committee to advise them of the latest MX developments. Management advisers include state Planning Director Bob Hill and Natural Resources Director Roland Westergard.

"The governor sets the policy. I give him the information," Bradhurst said.

Bradhurst said he doesn't want to place a specific dollar figure on what Nevada's rural counties will need if the MX is built in their areas.

"We don't want Uncle Sam to come back and

say, 'Well, you said the amount of money it would take to mitigate the adverse impacts is only so much.' We just don't have the data. The rule of thumb is it will take at least 10 percent of the construction costs. You are talking at least \$2 billion."

RJ 7-16

Pentagon Wants MX In Southwest States

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon has taken another shot at scuttling a proposal to deploy MX missiles on small submarines rather than to base them in Southwestern states.

The Defense Department Monday released a new study, prepared by System Planning Corp., which found the submarine plan would not be technically feasible before 1992.

An earlier study, prepared in April by the Pentagon's chief of weapons research William Perry, similarly predicted small subs could not be produced before the early 1990s.

Richard Garwin, a leading defense consultant, had suggested the submarine plan as an alternative to the controversial system advocated by the Pentagon to base the missiles in Utah, Nevada and possibly Texas and New Mexico.

Garwin said the missiles could be placed in capsules attached to the hulls of small submarines that would cruise along the U.S. coast. He called the system Shallow Undersea Mobile system.

"The (MX) racetrack is not the answer to the demand for a survivable, prompt means of attack on Soviet nuclear forces; SUM is," Garwin wrote recently.

Missile Impact Study Issuance Postponed

An anticipated study of the MX missile system's environmental impact, which was expected out Friday in draft form, has been postponed, according to an Air Force spokesman.

Lt. Col. Neil Buttner of the Ballistic Missile Office at Norton AFB in California said the delay was caused by additional study of the split-basing mode, which would divide the system between the proposed Nevada and Utah site and another location.

The original system would have located 200 missiles on a racetrack system with 4600 shelters through the valleys of central Nevada and Utah.

The Air Force agreed to consider other alternatives, such as the split-basing mode, after opposition was voiced from Nevada residents and Congress. It is looking at New Mexico and Texas as a possible second site.

SUN 7-17-80

SUN 7-17-80

The Governor's New MX Planner

Gov. Robert List has appointed another high-powered planner to handle the MX matters for the state. His first appointee to the job, Connie Ashcraft, was an extremely nice lady who plunged in over her head in the everyday work with the proposed missile system. She heard rumors about how the MX was to be protected from ground intruders and repeated the rumors to the press. Yes, Connie had a few planning and talking problems.

Good Planning Credentials

Now comes Ashcraft's replacement, Steve Bradhurst, who has some planning credentials to justify his appointment. In fact, his credentials are much better than those of his immediate supervisor, State Planning Director Robert Hill. Even with good planning credentials, Bradhurst has a communications problem or an ego problem. In kindness, we will look upon his most recent statements as a bad case of foot-in-mouth disease.

He has not seen the draft environmental statement the Air Force is having prepared for the MX system. He hasn't seen it because it won't be completed for at least another 30 days. Yet he says he doesn't have high hopes for it, and he refers to the study as "a rushed job." A more prudent person would at least wait and see the product before attacking it or undercutting its credibility. Are we to assume that Bradhurst is so talented that his ability overshadows the need for prudence?

Creating MX Ghosts

Yesterday, Brig. Gen. Jim McCarthy was in town on his way to Reno for discussions about the MX with the working people up north. McCarthy told the SUN he's holding up the environmental impact statement until the Air Force is satisfied the information is correct. After its release, we will have open meetings around the state for discussion of its contents.

We suggest that Steve Bradhurst wait along with the rest of us before shooting holes in a target he has yet to view. That is, unless he believes he is carrying out Governor List's anti-MX views by shooting wildly and creating ghosts for the governor to point to when taking another of his many positions on the MX missile system.

SUN 7-17-80

MX road studies revealed

CARSON CITY (AP) — Preliminary studies show at least 2,000 miles of Nevada highway would suffer heavy damage due to MX construction and deployment, state Transportation Department chief Al Stone said Friday.

Stone said he is beginning "immediate efforts" to get federal assurances of aid in building and maintaining highways if the MX missile system is built in Nevada.

The highway chief also said needed road improvements could range in cost from \$300 million to \$500 million. He said traffic in areas affected by MX would probably increase three to five times.

"The disastrous effects of the MX system on our roads and highways in Nevada is a crucial area which must be addressed," said Stone.

RJ 7-19-80

State, county agree on MX funds policy

CARSON CITY (AP) — The state has settled its differences with Clark County over the handling of federal funds that come with the proposed MX missile system.

State and Clark County officials, along with representatives of the MX planning organization made up of rural counties, agreed Friday on a policy to promote a streamlined funding proposal. The plan calls for the federal government to designate one agency to process the funding through the state. In addition, the group decided to study how to streamline the mechanics of getting the funds through the federal bureaucracy.

The state wanted all impact money chan-

neled through Carson City, while Clark County had sponsored legislation which would give some funding directly to the counties.

Clark County officials also had complained the state had not sought enough federal planning money for the coming year. Nevada is in line to get about \$1.5 million to finance its MX planning efforts for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The group agreed to form a committee to develop a large-scale work plan to be presented to

Congress in hopes of getting more planning funds.

The committee would include representatives from the state, Clark County, the local county planning organization and White Pine County, which withdrew from the joint planning effort after a squabble with Clark County.

In recent months, Clark County has been increasingly critical of the state's MX planning effort, calling Nevada's MX policy "fuzzy and fragmented."

RJ 7-20-80

'How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen MX'

Memorable moments in the short history of the MX

May 8, 1979. Gov. Robert List: "I wish to convey to you the willingness of the state of Nevada to do its part in the development of such a system (MX) should the decision be made to deploy it here."

June 18, 1979. President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign the SALT II agreement in Vienna, Austria.

June 28, 1979. Gov. Robert List: "The MX is compatible with our existing environment and our multiple use of public lands."

June 29, 1979. Lt. Gen. Tom Stafford, a former astronaut: The Great Basin lands of Nevada and Utah are a "desertland where a rattlesnake would have a hard time making a living."

Aug. 13, 1979. Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker: Sixty percent of the MX missiles will survive a Soviet attack. Only 10 percent of the Minutemen missiles would survive a similar attack.

Aug. 13, 1979. Sen. Howard Cannon: Expresses support of MX, calling it the only system permitted the United States under SALT II.

Aug. 20, 1979. Sen. Paul Laxalt: "I think you've got so many problems (with the MX), I don't think you're going to get it in Nevada. I don't think anyone would challenge the premise that

if we got into a nuclear war, we'd (Nevadans) be the No. 1 target."

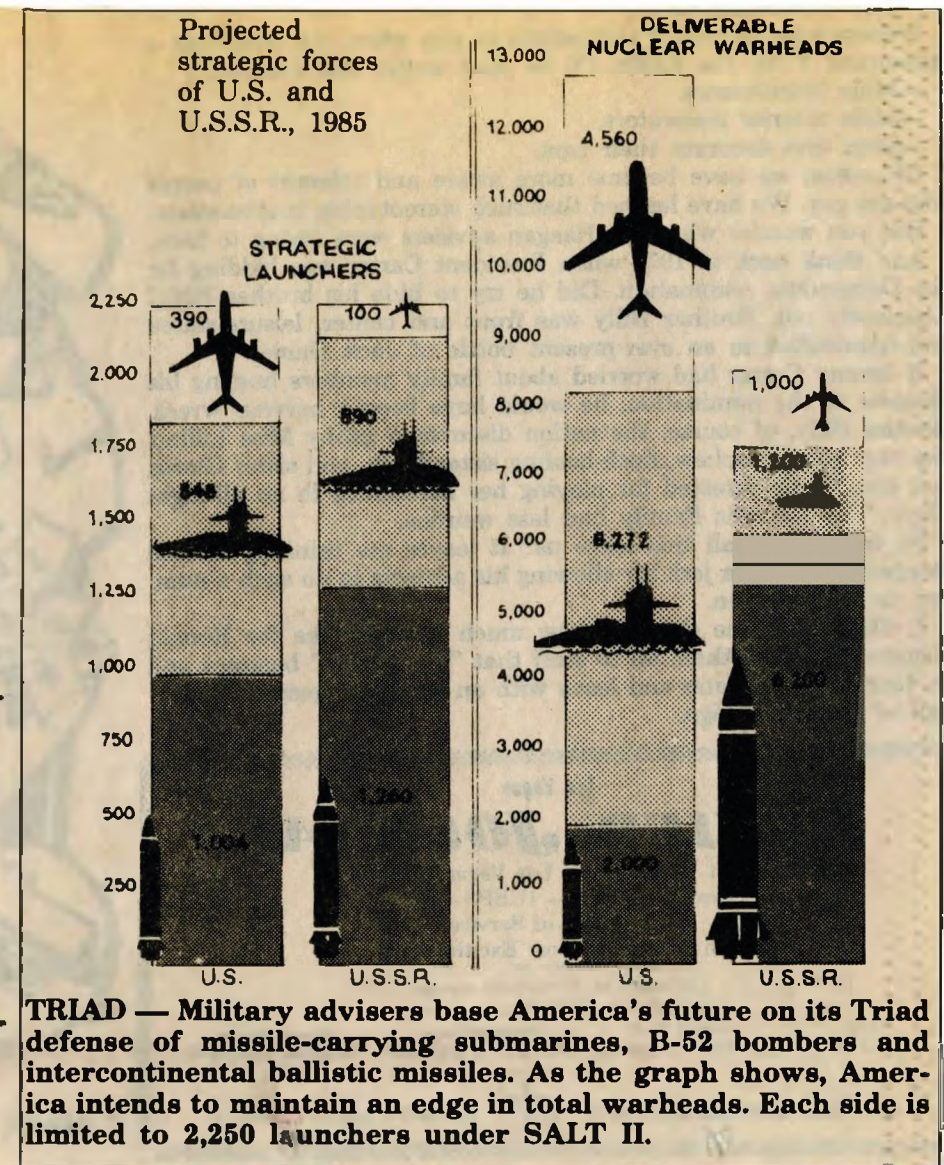
Sept. 6, 1979. Rep. James Santini: "We stand to lose our identity as the Silver State and become the Nuclear Weapons State. Nevada should not be the nation's nuclear playground."

Sept. 13, 1980. Rep. James Santini: Voices concerns that 22,000 construction workers will be moving into an area with a

OFFENSIVE		U.S.	USSR
ICBM Launchers		1,054	1,400
SLAM Launchers (submarine)		656	950
Long-range bombers operational		348	150
Warheads		9,200	5,000
DEFENSIVE		U.S.	USSR
Air defense surveillance radars		59	7,000
Interceptors		309	2,500
SAM launchers		none	10,000
AMB defense launchers (antiballistic missiles)		none	64

7,000 population. Moves to restrict MX missiles to no more than 25 percent in one state. House defeats his move, 289-84. No one from Texas or New Mexico votes with Santini.

See MX,
Page 7B



25 7.20. 1980

MX a pea-under-shell nuke game

Some term the standoff a 'delicate balance of terror'

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Supporters have said the MX is a pea-under-a-shell nuclear warhead game that will ensure a future for our children's children.

The MX has been pictured as the tool with which the United States can maintain a nuclear standoff with the USSR. Some, however, have termed the standoff "the delicate balance of terror."

Put in 200 intercontinental ballistic missiles, each missile containing 10 independent warheads capable of striking a different city in the Soviet Union. Scramble the missiles around 4,600 concrete shelters. Keep the Soviets guessing which shelters hold the missiles. Build the whole thing out in the middle of rocky valleys in the Great Basin. Pentagon spokesmen have said the entire Soviet nuclear arsenal could not wipe out the MX without suffering an American response that would turn most of the folks in Russia into nuclear dust.

The military has dubbed such dismal first-strike consequences the "adverse exchange ratio," said Brig. Gen. James McCarthy, the Pentagon's new spokesman on MX matters to the affected states.

"It takes 23 Soviet warheads to destroy 10 of ours," McCarthy said. "After he attacks, he has less warheads remaining than you. If he fires first, he's in worse shape than if he didn't fire first, so he won't fire at all."

America's defense rests on a Triad concept, McCarthy added. If the Soviets attack land-based missiles like the MX, the Minuteman IIIs or the Titans, then they still must contend with submarine-launched warheads and nuclear-stocked B-52 bombers.

Build a strong MX and there can be a future for the grandchildren of Carter and Brezhnev.

★★★

"If you put it on the ballot, I guess the sentiment around here is 2-1 against the MX," Mike Fogliani said.

Fogliani serves as commissioner of Lincoln County, a 10,649-square-mile area that in 1970 had a population of only 2,557. It is here and in equally isolated White Pine and Nye counties where the Air Force would prefer to put its mighty MX warheads.

Preliminary figures show 16,250 to 26,000 construction workers will be building the MX in those barren Nevada counties during the 1983-89 period. Construction will bring a total of 68,250 people to the isolated counties. The last census showed only 18,306 people lived in the three counties. Many have lived there for generations. Their grandfathers mined until

the mines failed. Their fathers worked on the railroad until nothing remained there for the trains to stop.

"We're not too much interested in the endangered species, in the trees. We're interested in the socio-economic consequences of the MX," Fogliani said.

Five months ago he told a Las Vegas group it would take \$200 million to \$1 billion to offset the effects of the missile system. He regrets making that statement now.

"Anybody who comes up with numbers is just making a wild guess. You can't take a textbook formula and apply it to rural Nevada for a project of this size."

★★★

June 8, 1979. Jimmy Carter announced he would build a \$33.8 billion, 200-missile system called the MX in the Great Basin desert of Nevada and Utah.

Ten days later, Carter signed the SALT II treaty in Vienna in ceremonies with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Critics claim Carter timed his MX announcement to convince conservatives in the Senate to approve SALT.

But now, more than a year later, the Senate still has not ratified the treaty.

Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan during his party's nominating convention said he opposes SALT II. He said the treaty offers the unfair advantages to the communists. Under SALT II, the Soviets can add 3,000 new nuclear warheads to their arsenal, Reagan said.

A Pentagon spokesman last week said SALT would let the Soviets expand their SS-18 missile capacity by 300. Each missile can carry 10 independently maneuverable warheads. Each MX missile also is permitted to carry 10 MIRVs, as the independent warheads are called, under SALT II. Every warhead carries destructive power 30 times that which shattered Hiroshima back in 1945.

America's arms investment "lagged behind the Soviet Union by over \$200 billion in the last decade," said William Van Cleave, Reagan's defense policy adviser during a recent "MacNeil-Lerner Report." Reagan wants "military superiority" in arms and to stop America's defense decline, he added.

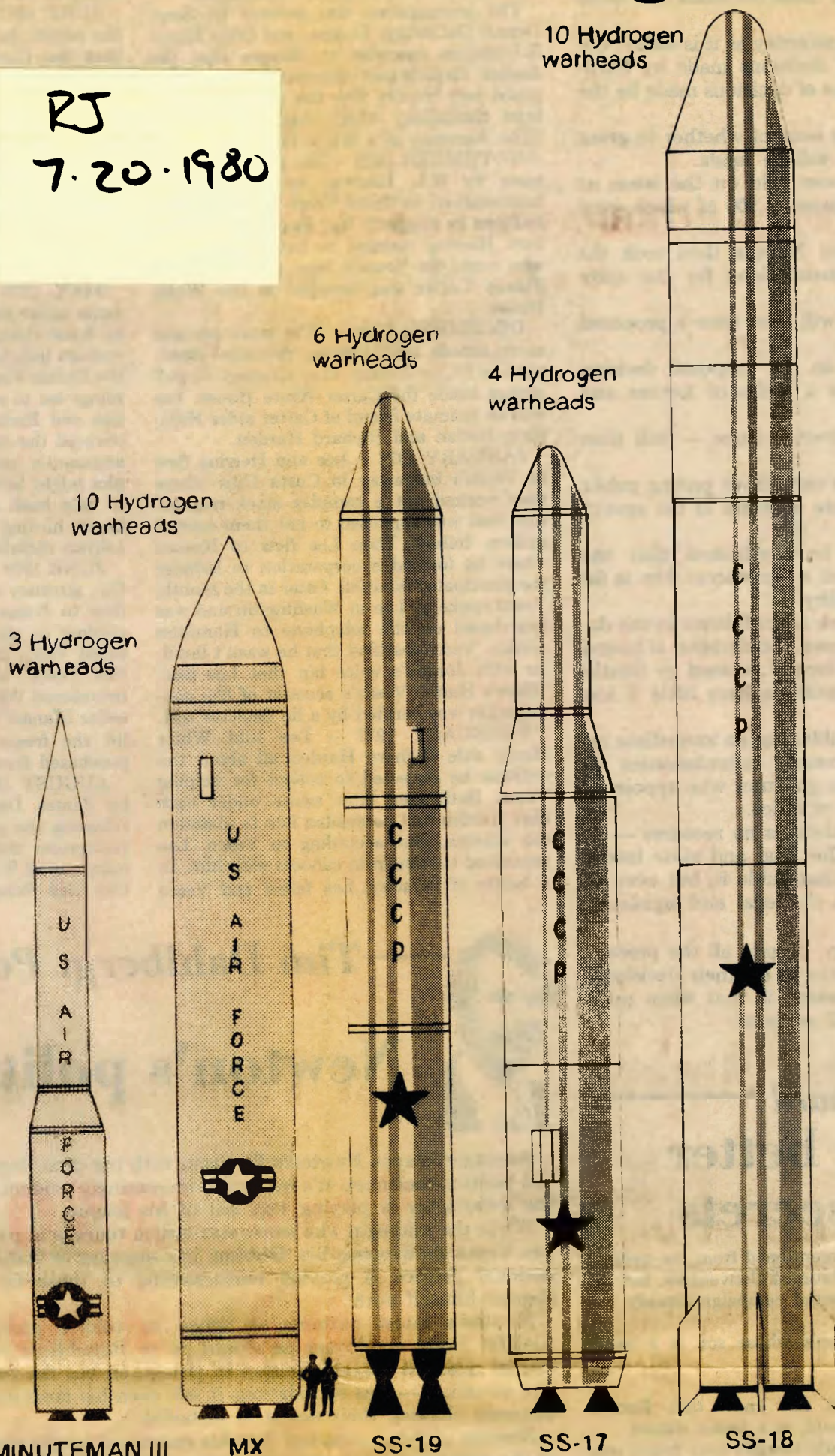
Parity in strategic arms was America's announced policy in the 1970s, Van Cleave said. Instead the United States got "inferiority."

Only from a position of strength would he be willing to negotiate a "real" arms limitation treaty, Reagan told "60 Minutes" reporter Mike Wallace.

The Pentagon was "very pleased" by the Republican Party's endorsement of the MX system, Gen. McCarthy said.

RJ

7.20.1980



MINUTEMAN III

MX

SS-19

SS-17

SS-18

LARGEST U.S. MISSILE YET - The MX will be America's largest missile, but smaller in size than the three Soviet

missiles. Yet, the MX will carry as much nuclear force as the biggest Russian missile.

★★★

What would life in rural Nevada be like in 20 years from now with the MX?

"The towns of Caliente and Pioche and Panaca will be thriving little metropolises, full of all the problems of little cities," said anti-MX spokesman Bill Vincent.

For 16 years Vincent toured through the Great Basin to record the life of Nevada's heartland for the readers of the Review-Journal's Nevadan magazine.

"A lot of us like the wilder-

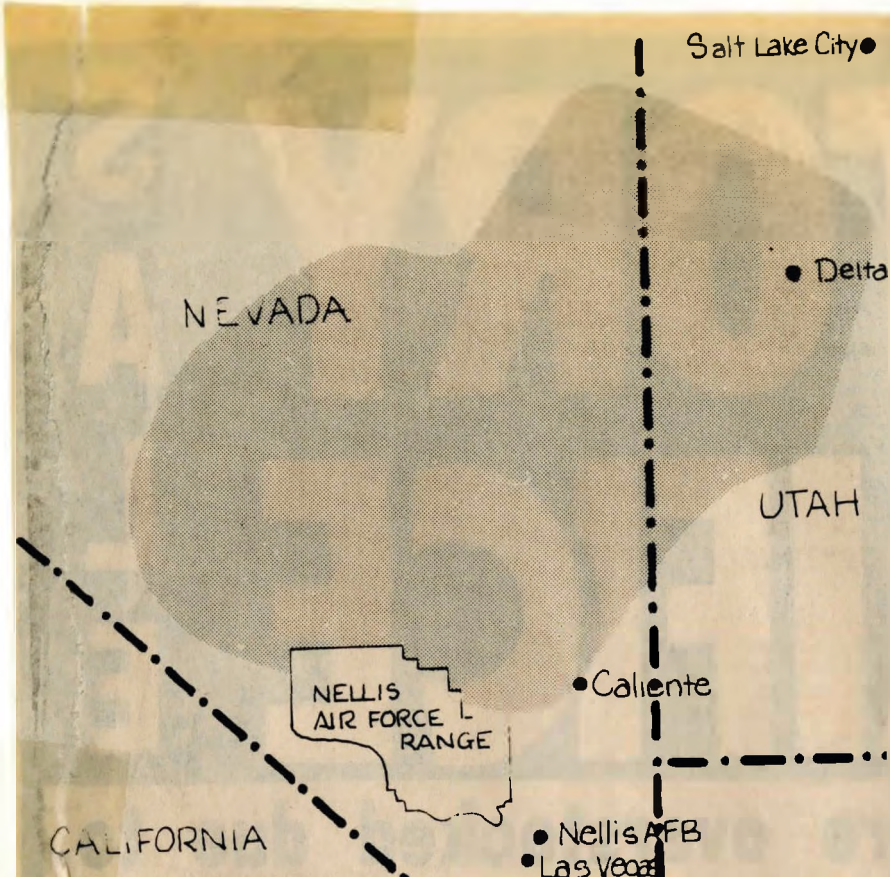
ness just for a chance to be alone, to drink a beer and to think and not be bothered by noise," Vincent said. "It's nice knowing it's there."

Building an MX only can provoke the Soviet Union to build on to its own weapon arsenal, he believes.

"Russia will build more weapons, we will build more MXs. My gosh, they will fill up half of Nevada with these damn missiles."

What would happen if the MX is attacked?

"Anyone within 200 miles of the explosions who happened to be looking directly at them would be partially blinded by a flash of light many times brighter than the sun," reported the Union of Concerned Scientists. "All surviving residents of Utah, and those in the eastern Nevada counties of Clark, Lincoln, Nye, White Pine, Eureka, Lander and Elko, would have between 10 minutes and three hours to seek refuge before deadly fallout emitting more than 3,000 rems per hour commenced."



MX MAP - This map shows the proposed areas in Nevada and Utah where the Air Force would prefer to put the \$33.8 billion MX missile system. Sites in New Mexico and Texas also are being considered. The Air Force prefers, however, putting the system in about 27 valleys in the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah.



LARGEST U.S. MISSILE YET - The MX will be America's largest missile, but smaller in size than the three Soviet missiles. Yet, the MX will carry as much nuclear force as the biggest Russian missile.

MX

From Page 1B

Sept. 20, 1979. Gov. Robert List: Expresses support of the MX at the AFL-CIO convention. The system will bring 15,000 permanent jobs compared to 9,000 at height of Nevada Test Site.

Oct. 3, 1979. Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker: "This will be the largest project in the history of mankind."

Oct. 17, 1979. Undersecretary of Defense William Perry: "If Salt II fails, MX needs 400 missiles and 13,500 shelters."

Jan. 14, 1980. Unidentified man at an Ely hearing: "If we have twice the nuclear warheads of the Russians, then why are we developing another nuclear system? There are now three tons of explosives for everyone on earth."

Jan. 24, 1980. Gov. Robert List: "Getting a

handle on the impact of the MX system on Nevada is like punching Jello."

Jan. 24, 1980. Brig. Gen. Forrest McCartney: Pledges to honor the water laws of the affected states.

March 6, 1980. Government Accounting Office report: Expresses skepticism about the government promises. Calls the Air Force pledge to use only 25 square miles for the MX "questionable." The Air Force will have to go to "area security," the report indicates. MX system will cost \$56 billion, not \$33 billion. Doubts the ability of the government to obtain the water in time for construction starts. System will need enough electricity for a city of 180,000.

March 11, 1980. Sen. Paul Laxalt: Indicates the Department of Justice told him the administration is not committed to obeying state water laws.

March 26, 1980. Gov. Robert List: "How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm after they've seen MX Twenty years from now, when the MX is over, we'll wind up with brown fields, all the

farm families gone and the U.S. government owning all the water rights."

May 20, 1980. Undersecretary of State William Perry: "We are looking at having several smaller bases, maybe three or four, but it there is only one base, it is certainly more logical

it be in Clark County." **May 29, 1980.** Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce: Calls for location of the main base at the Coyote Springs-Kane Springs area, near the Clark County line with Lincoln County. Spokesman Frank Johnson: "If we are going to get it

here anyway, we should strive to get the most benefits out of it and welcome them."

June 15, 1980. Deputy undersecretary of State Seymour Zeiberg: U.S. will add 200 missiles and 2,400 shelters to the MX if the Soviet Union adds to its nuclear arsenal.

RJ 7-20-80

MX on ballot

RENO (AP) — "Are you in favor of the construction of an MX missile system within the state of Nevada?"

That's the question that Washoe County voters will be asked on their November ballots.

The county commissioners approved the wording of the advisory referendum Tuesday. Voters in Churchill, White Pine and Nye counties also will face questions on the MX.

RJ 7-23-80

MX general accused of duping public

MX missile system critics have accused the Air Force's chief MX spokesman with trying to dupe the American public into accepting the MX.

Brig. Gen. James P. McCarthy has been "misrepresenting public opinion" in order to convince the Pentagon and Congress that the MX has the approval of residents of Nevada and Utah, said Evy Tessman in a press release.

Tessman, a member of an anti-MX coalition in Salt Lake City, was critical of statements made by McCarthy during a July 21 address in Dayton, Ohio. McCarthy, special assistant for MX matters, said opposition to the MX is ending in Southern Nevada.

The Associated Press indicated McCarthy said rancher opposition has ended because the Air Force agreed to drop a racetrack loop road system for its 200-mile MX system in favor of a straight road plan.

However, both the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and the Utah Cattlemen's Association have gone on record in opposition to the MX, Tessman said.

In addition, Lincoln County Commissioner Mike Fogiliani recently said residents in the proposed MX construction area would vote 2-1 against the system. Voters in Nye and White Pine counties — areas where the MX could be built — will be asked if

they favor the MX in November.

"The people of this country have a right to know what their military is up to," Tessman said. "Unfortunately, these men can only say what the Carter Administration dictates they shall say."

McCarthy, she said, is following in the path of his predecessor, Gen.

Guy Hecker, now assigned to MX matters on Capitol Hill.

"Hecker pulled a similar stunt back in February when he returned to Washington to claim that the 'silent majority' favored race-track MX," Tessman said. "I expect that Air Force arrogance — first displayed by Hecker and now by McCarthy

— has actually prompted some Great Basin residents to move toward active MX opposition."

RJ 7-28-80

MX response planned by Boulder City

BOULDER CITY — The Boulder City Council on Tuesday agreed to join other municipalities in the Las Vegas Valley in preparing a joint response on the technical aspects of the Air Force's draft environmental impact statement on the proposed MX missile system.

The joint response to the draft statement, which is being written by the Air Force, will address possible negative technical and economic effects of the MX on the area, according to City Manager Terry Zerkle. Other entities participating in the response

are Clark County, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson.

Zerkle told councilmen that a coordinated, joint response to the Air Force will be more effective than if each entity responded individually to the

statement.

"The deployment of the MX missile system in Nevada contains the potential for impacting the resources and citizenry of this state and the various local government entities," Zerkle

stated in a memorandum to the council.

"Notwithstanding the policy implications of MX, it is necessary that, from a technical standpoint, the negative impacts be minimized and

that this state, its citizenry and local government units not be saddled with picking up the infrastructure costs which will result from the construction and deployment of this national defense facility," Zerkle said.

RJ 7-23-80

Carter delegate plans MX debate

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Despite President Carter's support of the MX missile system, a Carter delegate will lead a floor debate against the \$33.8 billion missile system during the upcoming Democratic National Convention in New York.

"The MX will be debated on the floor, either on Aug. 12 or 13," said Carter delegate R.P. "Joe" Smith during a Wednesday telephone conversation from his Portland, Ore., home.

Smith, a member of the Democratic Platform Committee, drafted an anti-MX plank which was defeated on a 75-69 vote when the committee met in Washington in June.

Since then he has gathered enough signatures from other platform committee members to force a floor fight on the minority position. The entire convention then will vote on the MX issue.

"I want something left for my grandchildren," Smith said. "The decision on the MX affects more than the peo-

ple who live in Nevada and Utah, it affects two to three billion people who live in the Northern Hemisphere."

Whether the MX debate receives national television coverage is uncertain, Smith said. A study of the Republican National Convention showed the cameras were on the podium speaker only nine minutes of each hour, Smith said.

Anti-MX groups also are expected to demonstrate in New York during the convention.

Smith said the blowing of ash from erupting Mount St. Helens has illustrated the dangers of nuclear war.

"Ash from the volcano has been spotted over Hawaii," he said. "It's gone all the way around the world. If that had been a two megaton bomb, people in Hawaii would be getting sick right now."

Yet the man Smith supports, President Carter, has called for the construction of the 200-missile MX system in the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah. The missiles would be

scrambled between 4,600 hardened shelters to prevent easy detection by the Soviet Union.

"I support Carter because I believe his mind is changeable when confronted with the facts," Smith said.

Nevada's 18 delegates, however, probably will support Carter's pro-MX system, said former Gov. Grant Sawyer, the Democratic national committeeman. He added, however, that Nevada delegates could go against Carter because of their fears the Silver State could become "the No. 1 target."

"The Carter people probably will support MX. I assume the Kennedy people will oppose it," he added.

Eight of Nevada's delegates are pledged for Carter, based on the results of the May primary. Kennedy will receive four votes, while six delegates at first will support "none of the above."

Sawyer was chairman of a subcommittee which debated the MX question when the Democratic Platform

Committee met in Washington.

"The Kennedy anti-MX people won in my subcommittee. Then it went to the full committee and Carter people battled for the MX," he said.

Nevada Democratic Chairman Ken Haller said he must favor the MX because during the May party convention in Elko the Democrats adopted a pro-MX plank.

"Jim Rice (Las Vegas Teamsters Union official) and the Right to Life people put the

plank in the platform," at the end of the convention. "It passed."

RJ 7-31-80

Air Force downgrades MX water needs

CARSON CITY (AP)

A spokesman for the MX missile project on Friday said the Air Force will not need to use all the water for which it has filed applications to pump from 29 Nevada and Utah valleys.

Lt. Col. Neil Buttimer said the applications request more than 80,000 acre feet of water yearly, but the Air Force still figures no more

than 30,000 acre feet of water yearly will be needed at the peak of MX construction. The construction peak in the mid-1980s would last for about two years.

Buttimer also said the list of valleys where water is sought does not necessarily pinpoint MX shelter locations, although the valleys are within the general "proposed impact area" of

the massive defense project.

He also said water pumped in one valley where there is no MX construction activity could be transported to another valley where construction is under way but where water is scarce.

Buttimer also said the applications for unappropriated water, filed with state water engineers in Utah and Ne-

vada, should not be viewed as "a firm commitment to drill for water" in the areas.

"This is an initial step anyone would take in following the normal procedures," he said. "It ensures that if these sites are selected, the Air Force will have followed state water laws and procedures."

Buttimer also said the upcoming environmental impact statement on

MX, now being prepared by the Air Force, will "discuss the MX water needs in further detail."

Pete Morros, deputy chief of the Nevada Natural Resources and Conservation Department, said Wednesday "several questions" must be answered before the department's water engineer, Bill Newman, can make a

final decision on the Nevada applications.

Morros also said public hearings may be required, although that depends in part on public reaction.

RJ 8-2-80

General to speak on MX

The Air Force's chief spokesman for the controversial MX missile program is scheduled to discuss the proposed \$33.8 billion project Friday at the Nevada State AFL-CIO convention.

Brig. Gen. James P. McCarthy will give an overview of the land-based missile project and the latest developments in implementing the program in a speech to delegates at 1:30 p.m.

The state AFL-CIO's 24th annual convention will be held at the Frontier Hotel on Friday through Sunday.

Union officials have endorsed the project, which will be larger than the Alaskan pipeline construction project. The AFL-CIO conducted a pro-MX petition drive and presented Sen. Howard Cannon with the signatures in July.

About 25,000 union members in service, construction and entertainment unions are affiliated with the state AFL-CIO.

The MX program is in the research and development stage. By the end of the summer, the Air Force is expected to release the draft environmental impact statement on the proposed siting for the system.

The Air Force wants to locate the 4,600 permanent shelters in the Great Basin area of eastern Nevada and western Utah.

But an amendment introduced by Cannon, and approved by a House-Senate conference committee last Friday, said that only 2,300 shelters and 100 missiles will be located in Nevada and Utah.

Further studies will indicate where the remaining shelters and missiles will go.

Construction on the project is scheduled to start in 1982. The missile system should be fully operational by the end of 1989.

Gen. McCarthy has been the Air Force's special assistant for the MX program since May. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours flying time and 152 combat missions in Vietnam.

He has a bachelor of science degree from Kent State University, Ohio, and a masters in science degree in International Relations from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

He received his officer commission in 1957 and has commanded several Air Force units during his 23 years of service.

LV Black Community Outraged

Utah May Get Primary MX Unit

By BOB PALM
SUN Staff Writer

Members of the black community expressed outrage Wednesday when they learned that the main base for the MX missile project may be located in Utah.

Community residents have scheduled a Friday meeting with Brig. Gen. James McCarthy, special assistant on MX matters, and Gov. Robert List to discuss their concerns and the possible participation of blacks in mankind's most ambitious construction project.

The meeting will be at 2:30 p.m. at Zion Methodist Church, 2108 Revere St.

A high-ranking Air Force official told the SUN Wednesday it was his understanding the primary base will be located in the Salt Lake City area, and the secondary base north of Ely, but added "no positive" official decision had been made.

Economic developer Jim Chaney said a Pentagon official and officials of Martin Marietta Construction Co., the prime contractor for the project, told him Wednesday, "If the decision were made today, the primary base would be located in Utah."

"The main thing is Nevadans have not been as supportive of the project as Utahns," Chaney said.

The Air Force spokesman said the decision on the location of the main base will be announced after a California firm completes its environmental impact statement on the project.

He implied, however, that

the statement would only be a formality as far as the location of the bases are concerned.

The main base will employ about 30,000 civilian and military personnel at the peak of construction in the mid-1980s, and the smaller one will employ considerably less, the source said. Most of the permanent jobs will be in Utah, he said.

A public relations officer in the Ballistic Missile Office at Norton Air Force Base denied that any decision had been made on where to situate the main base.

"I'm sure there's no decision made on this," according to Lt. Col. Neil Buttmer. "The decision of where to put the main base depends on information to be released in the environmental impact statement, and it hasn't been evaluated yet."

The long-awaited environmental statement is scheduled for release at the end of the summer, according to the Air Force.

Major Vic Bras, aide to Gen. McCarthy, also denied that the sites for the bases had been chosen.

Gov. List also said that no decision had been made.

Clark County officials still hope to get the main base located in Southern Nevada, which supposedly is under consideration by Air Force officials.

Assemblyman Lonie Chaney, who arranged the meeting with List, said participants "want to find out what kinds of jobs will be available for blacks. There

should be ways for blacks to get the jobs before out-of-staters."

Chaney and several other concerned residents of the black community said locating the base in Utah would just about foreclose any hope of blacks participating in any meaningful way in the construction of the system and getting any permanent jobs after the system is built.

Chaney said if the Air Force plans to use any significant number of blacks on the project, it should be training them now. "We want to cut the unemployment rate in the community, estimated at 34 to 40 percent, down to 3 percent," Chaney said.

"We want to see if we can influence the Air Force into locating the main base in Nevada. That would mean that everything would come through Clark County," Chaney said. "We've got to look beyond ecology."

Black contractor Leonard Mason said, "The Indians, cowboys, beaver trappers, Mormons and rural Nevadans are worried about the possible environmental impact, maintaining a rural way of life, and water and grazing rights."

"We (blacks) are concerned with eating rights."

Chaney said if the main base is located in Utah, blacks could look forward to

getting only temporary jobs.

Mason said Utah has a minority population of about 2 percent, but said if the main base is built in Utah, he could foresee a migration of Southern Nevada blacks to central and southern Utah.

"With that, I can foresee many social, political and religious upheavals. Utah with its conservative laws and principles may have a difficult time adjusting to a high influx of liberal, labor-oriented blacks," Mason said.

George Osley, secretary-treasurer of Labors Local 872, said the union supports construction of the project "with its main base in Southern Nevada."

SUN 8-7-80

RJ 8-6-80

Air Force seeks water for MX project

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Air Force has filed requests for unappropriated water in Utah and Nevada as part of its plan to build the massive MX project.

But no requests have yet been filed in New Mexico or Texas, frequently mentioned as additional sites for the project if a "split basing" mode is approved by Congress.

The applications name 29 Utah and Nevada valleys. In Utah they include: Snake, Pine, Tule, Fish Springs Flat, Wah Wah, Whirlwind, Dugway and Sevier in Beaver, Tooele, Juab and Millard Counties.

The Nevada valleys include: Dry Lake, De-

lamar, White River, Reveille, Hot Creek, Little Smoky, Antelope, Railroad, Garden, Coal, Pahroc, Muleshoe, Cave, Spring, Hamlin, Stotne Cabin, Ralston, Big Sand Spring, Penoyer, Lake and Big Smoky.

Snake and Hamlin Valleys are located in both Utah and Nevada.

Earl Staker, deputy state engineer, said the state would advertise the Air Force request in general circulation newspapers in the affected counties. If there

are any protests from citizens, public hearings will be held, he said.

He said it was a "foregone conclusion" that there will be protests.

The legal advertisements should be published within 30 to 60 days.

An Air Force statement detailing the water request said it was "not a firm commitment for water," but if the MX is approved it would ensure the Air Force "will have followed the states' water

laws and procedures."

Air Force officials have said the peak annual water need for construction and maintenance of the project is about 30,000 acre-feet. Under the present proposal, peak water use would be in 1988-89.

The annual amount of water needed to maintain the project would be approximately 13,000 acre-feet, or about 5.4 percent of the area's estimated yearly water

yield, Air Force officials said.

Environmentalists have criticized the Air Force estimates because they do not take into account the water need for new energy projects in southern Utah.

Ken Olson, MX adviser to Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, said water supplies are sufficient for construction of the project. But he said it is doubtful the desert area can produce enough wa-

ter to maintain the system.

He said the state has asked the Air Force how it proposes to dispose of tapped water when the need for it is gone.

Regional news

RJ 8-8-80

MX foes: Still chance to kill plan

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Opponents of the MX missile system still have a 50-50 chance of killing the controversial defense system altogether, an anti-MX leader said this week.

Anti-MX spokesman Bill Vincent made this claim despite the recent congressional approval of a bill to place at least half of the \$56 billion MX missile system in Nevada and Utah.

"It doesn't settle anything," Vincent said.

He said no MX work can be done until the land is transferred from

the Bureau of Land Management to the Air Force. Hearings on land transfers are not planned until after the November election.

Last Friday a conference committee of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives adopted Sen. Howard Cannon's amendment to put at least half of the MX's 200 missiles and 4,600 shelters in the Great Basin valleys of Nevada and Utah.

On the same day, the Air Force filed applications for water rights in 22 valleys in Nevada and seven in Utah. The

applications request more than 80,000 acre feet of water a year, although the Air Force has said it plans to use no more than 30,000 acre feet during the peak of MX construction.

"These are valleys where the MX might go," said Maj. Vic Bras, a Pentagon spokesman. "All are suitable."

Though the Air Force has said it will follow state law in acquiring the water rights, one of the valleys (Penoyer Valley) it seeks has been designated a ground-water basin

where special precautions should be taken before more water is taken.

"They indicated they are going to follow state law and they have so far," said William Newman, the state water engineer.

Anyone who intends to protest the Air Force desire to acquire the water must pay a \$10 fee per protest application and then pay for half of the cost of transcribing testimony at the subsequent hearing. The Air Force filed 94 applications in an effort to acquire water in the

22 Nevada valleys.

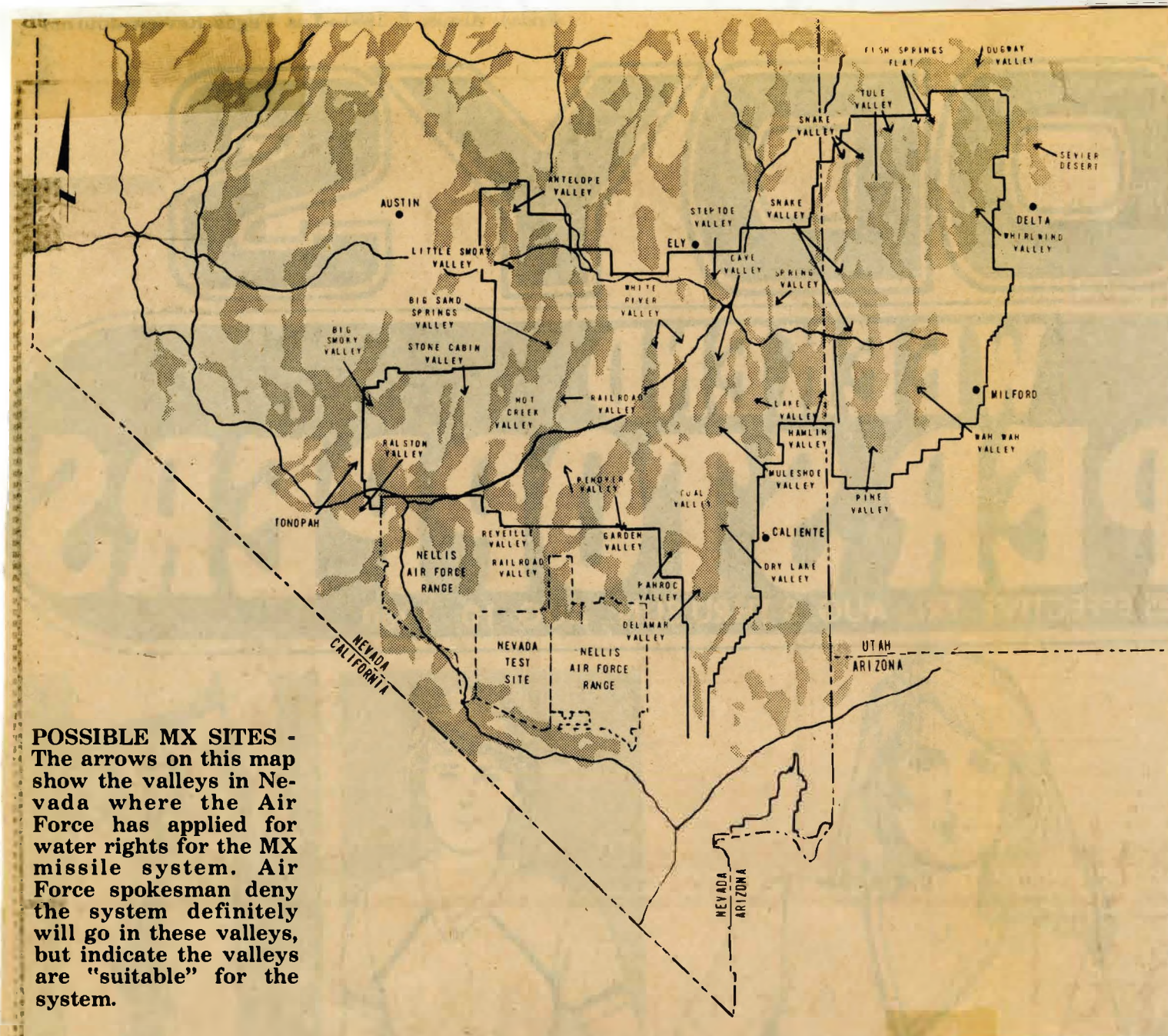
"We're not caught up with our applications," Newman said.

He said it will take his staff at least three months before it may act on any of the Air Force's applications.

The Senate and House agreed on a bill that states before more than half of the missile system may be placed in

See MX,
Page 8B

RJ 8-8-80



POSSIBLE MX SITES -
The arrows on this map show the valleys in Nevada where the Air Force has applied for water rights for the MX missile system. Air Force spokesman deny the system definitely will go in these valleys, but indicate the valleys are "suitable" for the system.

MX

From Page 3A
the Great Basin, the Air Force must conduct studies to show "that adverse costs, military or other reasons preclude split basing."

Vincent contends the Air Force has no intention of carrying out a thorough study on the impact of putting part of the missile system in New Mexico and Texas.

"I think the legislation is camouflage," Vincent said. "Antonia Chayes (an assistant secretary of defense) said they were looking at New Mexico and Texas to dull the criticism of the MX here in Nevada. They are just doing it as a gesture to

satisfy critics."

"It's temporarily limiting," the Air Force's Bras said.

For every page devoted to Texas or New Mexico in a yet-to-be-released environment impact study on the MX, 20 pages are devoted to Nevada and Utah, Vincent claims.

"The Air Force feels split basing is a more expensive way to base MX," Bras said. "I think Congress will have to judge if the added cost is worth it."

Vincent remains confident an anti-MX plank will be adopted during next week's Democratic National Convention in New York.

Panel to discuss MX consultant

Members of the MX Oversight Committee are scheduled to discuss hiring a consulting firm to help them review the Air Force soon-to-be released impact study on the \$56 billion missile system when they meet at 10 a.m. Saturday in the county conference room at Valley Bank.

State MX Coordinator Steve Bradhurst and representatives from the Air Force and Army Corps of Engineers are expected to attend the meeting.

The environmental study on the MX probably will not be released until September, said Richard Atwater, staff officer for the Oversight Committee.

8-8-80

Labor confab hears economy talks

By Jeanne M. Hall
R-J Staff Writer

Although 1980 is a major political year, the speakers at the 24th annual Nevada AFL-CIO convention stayed away from partisan politics Friday and discussed recession, inflation and jobs.

Thomas Donahue, secretary-treasurer for the national AFL-CIO, told about 150 union delegates meeting at the Frontier Hotel the new populisms calling for a balanced budget and deregulation are the "rhetoric of the far right.

"We need to struggle for a balanced economy where everyone will have an opportunity to work and not for a balanced budget," Donahue said.

Donahue said a doctorate in mathematics is not necessary to realize there is double digit inflation and high unemployment. What is needed, he said, is not less government but proper government intervention.

"Right now we want government programs to create jobs, to put people back to work," he said.

"We need to convince people there is a new bottom line for the '80's. Not profit and loss for the stockholders. But profit and loss for the community," Donahue said.

Representatives from 77 locals and councils affiliated with the state AFL-CIO are meeting at the Frontier through Sunday.

State Attorney General Rich-

ard Bryan said he hopes to see a law passed in the 1981 Legislature creating a state consumer advocate whose job would be to argue for the consumer during rate hike hearings before the Public Service Commission.

In the past 18 months, the Public Service Commission has granted more than \$182 million in utility increases with little or no representation on behalf of residential customers, he said. A state consumer advocate, skilled in utility regulation, is needed to give the consumer a fair shake, he said.

Gov. Robert List told the delegates Nevada has gotten off relatively lightly in the current recession.

Nevada's unemployment rate

has been running well below the national level, he said. The latest state figures show a 6.4 percent unemployment rate compared to a national rate of 7.8 percent.

But List did sound a warning note on the alleged recession-proof Nevada economy.

"The golden goose is not a goose that is immune to what is going on outside the state of Nevada. The golden eggs have gotten smaller and someday she may stop laying all together," List said of the gaming economy.

List also said state and gaming officials should not be blamed for the unemployment of about 2,000 Aladdin Hotel employees laid off when the

state closed the hotel July 10. List reminded the delegates the conviction of the corporation and several shareholders on federal charges of hidden ownership propelled the closure of the Strip resort.

"Hopefully a qualified group will get together, with Mr. (Wayne) Newton or otherwise, to get the Aladdin open. Hopefully they'll be back to work at the Aladdin," he said.

Although List has not endorsed the MX missile project, he said he wants Nevadans to get their share of benefits if it is sited in Nevada and Utah.

"Working people in this state will be the top priority to be hired," he declared.

U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon

confined his remarks to the MX missile project.

Cannon compared the MX system to the Hoover Dam construction project. At the time it was built, there was widespread controversy on water availability and possible social upheaval resulting from the influx of thousands of construction workers, he said.

"What happened was Boulder City, one of our loveliest and best-planned cities, was born. I'm not predicting today the formation of a new Boulder City someplace in Nevada. The system is too spread out and no one knows where the supply center will be," the Democratic senator said.

AF spokesman makes pitch for MX system

The U.S. Air Force's chief spokesman for the MX missile system made a hard pitch for the project Friday during a speech to union representatives in Las Vegas.

Brig. Gen. James McCarthy told delegates to the 24th annual Nevada state AFL-CIO convention the key reason for

constructing the MX is to guarantee America's security from nuclear attack through an effective nuclear deterrent.

The Soviets are "committed to achieving clear superiority," he said. He cited statistics showing the Soviets had outspent the United States by \$104 billion on military procurements

between 1970-1978.

McCarthy also told delegates a land-based system is necessary to maintain the triad system of defense based on air, sea and land weapons.

The spokesman gave the approximately 150 union delegates an overview of the proposed \$33.8 billion missile pro-

gram. He said the next big development in MX planning will be the release, possibly next month, of the environmental impact statement on the system.

The eastern part of Nevada and the western part of Utah are the preferred site for the missile system, but the Air Force will follow the

dictates of Congress if lawmakers decide to study the possibility of locating half the 4,300 shelters and 200 missiles in Texas and New Mexico. A proposal for the so-called "split-basing" system is embodied in an amendment introduced by Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon that has been approved by a House-

Senate Conference Committee.

The environmental impact statement will not indicate which area is preferred as the main basing site for the MX system. Both Beryl, Utah, and Coyote Springs have been discussed as the location for the main base.

McCarthy's overview

of the controversial defense project was well received by the union delegates. The state AFL-CIO has conducted a pro-MX petition drive, presenting the signatures to Cannon in July.

Before the end of the convention, the labor leaders will also consider a resolution supporting the MX project. The convention is meeting at the Frontier Hotel through Sunday.

Santini introduces MX aid measure

Rep. James Santini said Friday he and Utah Rep. Gunn McKay will ask Congress later this month to streamline the process of getting special aid for areas affected by MX construction.

Santini and McKay,

both Democrats said they will offer the proposal as an amendment to the 1981 military construction authorization bill, scheduled to be considered by Congress after its August recess.

The congressmen, in

a joint statement issued from their Washington offices, said the present system of obtaining impact assistance is "tortuous and indirect."

McKay said the revised procedure, under which MX program funds could be transferred directly to agencies in charge of impact aid, would bypass internal red tape and budget disputes and could cut delays by 60 percent.

"That's pretty important to a mayor facing

overloaded power, water or school systems," McKay said.

McKay is chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, while Santini is a member of the House Interior Committee, which must approve public

land withdrawals for the MX system.

The MX system as proposed by the Pentagon would put some 200 missiles on mobile launchers and shuttle them among some 4,600 hardened shelters. The idea is to confuse Soviet spy satellites and make it impossible for Rus-

sian missiles to be aimed accurately at U.S. defenses.

Although a final decision on the site of the MX complex has not been made, the Air Force has said it is leaning heavily toward the desert valleys of Utah and Nevada.

Firm hired to review MX environment draft

A Denver consultant firm Saturday was hired by the Nevada MX Oversight Committee for technical assistance in reviewing the massive Air Force environmental impact document expected to be released this month on the multi-billion dollar missile project.

The David L. Peterson firm was hired for \$7,000 to help review the MX statement being prepared by a California firm, as well as to assist the state and local officials with planning for the military project.

Richard Atwater, committee coordinator, said one of the aspects of the MX the consultant will examine will be the "boom town" problems rural areas in Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties will face during the next five years.

The contract runs through the end of the year and is paid by the Four Corners Regional Commission.

Maj. Ron Huff, Nevada's Air Force MX liaison officer, told the group of about 20 officials meeting at the Valley Bank Building the document

probably will run more than 2,000 pages and include volumes of reference materials.

Huff also pointed out to the committee, which is made up of staff and public officials from Lincoln, Nye and Clark counties, that recent reports suggesting Utah already has been selected by the Air Force as the main base of the MX are false.

"The Air Force will not have a preferred position for an operating base until the final environmental impact statement is released," he said, adding the final draft will not be completed until mid-1981 after public hearings on the document are completed.

Certain Southern Nevada labor leaders and politicians last week were upset by reports that the Air Force has all but chosen Utah as the primary base for the MX. The base is expected to employ more than 20,000 civilian and military personnel at the height of construction in three to five years.

RJ 8-10-80

Nevada Delegates Blast MX

NEW YORK (UPI) — Democratic delegates from Nevada Wednesday protested the MX mobile missile system over the personal objections of President Carter.

Carter circulated a handwritten note to delegates on the floor of the Democratic National Convention, but it had little effect on the delegates from Nevada and Utah, where the controversial system would likely be based.

A preliminary poll of the Nevada delegation showed 9.1 votes in favor of adopting a minority platform plank calling for a study of alternatives to the MX and 2.9 votes against the report.

Among the 18 members of the delegation, eight of the delegates are pledged to Carter, four to Sen. Edward Kennedy and six are uncommitted. One delegate has a full vote, the others each have 11-17ths of a vote.

On White House stationery, Carter wrote to the delegates: "We Democrats must demonstrate to our nation and to the world that we are committed to defending our country, and to concluding a balanced nuclear arms control agreement."

"It is crucial that our strategic nuclear forces not be vulnerable to a preemptive Soviet attack," Carter said. "The MX missile system is our optimum means of meeting these vital goals."

The Utah and Nevada delegations distributed a position paper saying they "are not satisfied with the current level of planning and study and are jointly concerned that mankind's largest public works project is being undertaken with only a minimum of evaluation."

"The majority of the residents in these affected states oppose the MX and share these concerns," the delegations said.

501X 8-14-80

Carter Uses Big Guns To Get MX Plank

NEW YORK (UPI) — The Democratic National Convention approved a party platform Wednesday with key provisions calling for more jobs and nuclear weapons, but President Carter was not expected to go along with the entire package.

In the final hours of debate, Carter forces called in Defense Secretary Harold Brown and White House press secretary Jody Powell to lobby against a plank deriding the MX missile.

Carter was known to be unhappy, however, with another plank calling for a \$12 billion jobs program and was expected to issue a statement of reservations about it.

However, Sen. Edward Kennedy's aides said the senator will appear on the podium with Carter Thursday night in a show of unity if the president accepts the plank — or its equivalent.

"If they accept what the party voted last night he'll go to the platform," Kennedy's aide said, but if Carter issues reservations about the jobs program "that will make it harder" for Kennedy to endorse him.

Kennedy did not take part in the MX

fight, withdrawing at the last minute his own proposal that called for delaying the nuclear system and seeking alternatives to it.

The convention rejected the anti-MX document, 1,872.9 to 1,276.6, then approved the amended platform by voice vote.

White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler said the administration was "very pleased" by the MX vote. "It's a sound, sensible vote and it reflects the essential balance of the Democratic party and these delegates."

Carter had summoned Brown to New York to tell delegates that while the MX is no panacea, "it is a capability we need in order to preserve the strategic balance."

And Powell told the delegates the MX issue was "not to be voted on lightly."

The proposed MX plank, offered by delegate Joe Smith of Oregon, struck a line in the platform that said MX "will enhance the survivability of our land-based intercontinental ballistic missile system." Instead, it said the party opposed deployment of the missile system.

Delegates also rejected by voice vote a plank saying the party favors an immediate

freeze on any further testing or deployment of nuclear weapons.

Carter and Kennedy forces reached a compromise on a Kennedy plank opposing a peacetime draft and opposing exclusion of women from draft registration. The compromise said draft registration should be used "only in the event of an emergency" and should not discriminate against women.

But the big fight of the day on the convention floor was over the MX.

"The president feels this is a weapon system which we need and which he is committed to go forward with," Carter press

secretary Jody Powell told reporters. "And he hopes that the Democratic National Convention will not take a position contrary to that position."

Powell said if the delegates vote to oppose the MX, Carter is sure to state his reservations in a written disclaimer.

Prior to debate on the MX, Carter forces distributed a four-page fact sheet to the delegates, stressing the growing military strength of the Russians.

The convention stalled Wednesday over lack of enough speakers to address two energy proposals backed by Kennedy. A roll-

call vote eventually showed inadequate support for the planks.

On a 1,520.3 to 1,166.2 vote, delegates rejected a Kennedy-backed proposal calling for the repeal of \$5.2 billion in subsidies oil companies receive through tax breaks.

Earlier, the convention approved a plank that makes a stronger national commitment to solar energy.

The jobs proposal was accepted by the convention Tuesday following a 39-minute display of affection and support for Kennedy. Carter strategists scurried to work out a compromise, in which they accepted the jobs

Related Stories, Pp. 5, 6

program and Kennedy backed down on the wage and price controls he supported.

Carter aides said immediately that the president would probably oppose the jobs section of the platform.

Richard Burke, Kennedy's top aide, said "it would be very difficult for us" to join the president in a show of unity on the podium Thursday night if Carter objected to the jobs program.

Under the accountability provision written into the platform, the party's nominee must put in writing any reservations or objections he may have to specific parts of the party's creed.

Sun 8.14.1980

Nevada delegates to oppose MX plan

R-J Washington Bureau

NEW YORK — Despite admonishments from Carter Administration officials and fellow state delegates, a majority of Nevada's delegation to the Democratic National Convention said Wednesday they favored a proposal the convention reject support of the MX missile system.

During a morning caucus of Nevada dele-

gates, former Gov. Grant Sawyer urged his fellow delegates to support the party platform plan that calls for continued development of the MX missile system.

"We have an obligation to vote our conscience, but we also have an obligation as a practical political matter," Sawyer said.

The delegate caucus came before a scheduled discussion of a proposal to reject the MX plank

in the Democratic platform in favor of a minority amendment which could completely halt MX development.

Sawyer and former Nevada chief justice Jon Collins said adoption of the minority amendment would "embarrass" the president by forcing him to take a public stand against the party platform.

The Nevada delegates were given a similar pitch by Jane Yarn, a

member of the Council on Environmental Quality. Yarn warned that adoption of the anti-MX amendment would provide ammunition to defense-minded Republicans and their nominee Ronald Reagan.

If the convention votes to adopt the minority proposal "it would provide an opening to the Republicans that we are weak on defense," Yarn said.

Despite the admon-

ishments, however, most Nevada delegates were clearly against the platform and appeared to be leaning heavily toward voting to adopt the minority amendment.

Charles Waterman, a Las Vegas attorney, challenged Yarn's statement that no final decision on deployment of the missile had been made.

"That sounds good but it flies in the face of

reality to think that they're going to be putting the MX anywhere but Nevada and Utah," Waterman said.

Waterman also criticized the government's method of studying the environmental impact of the missile, calling efforts from federal officials an "eastern exercise."

"I have seen very little consultation by the

president with those of us in the West who will be affected," Waterman said.

RJ B-13-80

Nevada delegates suffer bitter defeat on MX vote

R-J Washington Bureau

NEW YORK — Delegates from Western states wary of the MX missile system — including Nevada — suffered a bitter defeat Wednesday as a majority of the 3,331 delegates attending the Democratic National Convention voted to support employment of the system.

By a 1,873-1,276 vote the convention defeated a move to substitute the Democratic platform's pro-MX plank with an amendment that would have rounded to a halt the entire missile program.

The vote brought to an end rancor and heated arguments among several delegations, including Nevada's 18 delegates, who have been openly split on the issue. The Nevada delegation has had internal difficulties since its arrival in New York City, notably over the Equal Rights Amendment — but the MX debate opened some deep emotional sores.

The delegation eventually voted against the MX by a tally of 7.8-4.2. Although Nevada has 18 delegates, they split 12 votes on the convention floor.

Jon Collins, President Carter's chief coordinator in the delegation, lobbied hard to defeat the amendment. His arguments were shored up by a visit from Energy Secretary Charles Duncan, a former assistant secretary of defense.

"This administration is going to show concern

for local and economic environment," Duncan told some in the delegation. "We need MX to protect our ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) and deter the Soviets."

Collins spread Duncan's word to others, but the secretary's message failed to turn back the tide. In personal polling, the Nevada delegation voted 12-6 to adopt the anti-MX amendment.

While delegates paraded around the jammed convention floor with signs barring messages of "MX equals Missile Madness" and "Ban the X-rated missile," Collins heatedly pushed the Carter position.

Frustration set in however as delegates opposing the missile's deployment in Nevada yielded little ground.

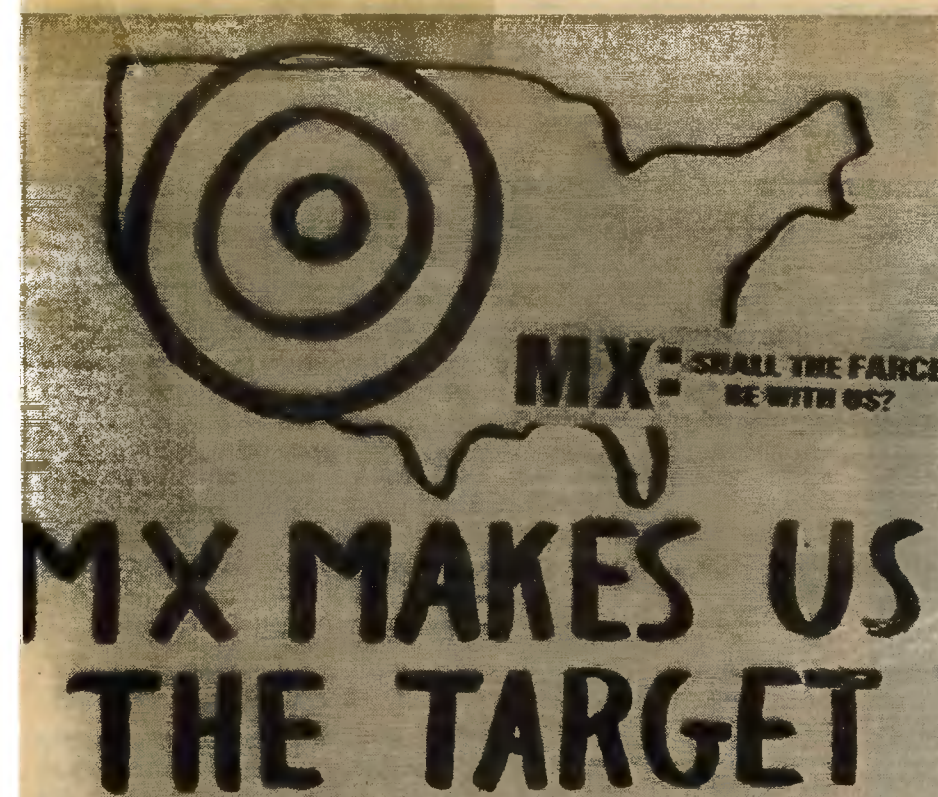
"I've assured all of them on the question and they still won't accept it," Collins yelled at a Carter floor manager who was checking the delegation's position.

"Don't bug me!" one delegate screamed at Collins.

Emotions ran particularly high between Collins and delegate chairman Harriet Trudell. Trudell opposes the MX, believing it to be a boondoggle "that will be obsolete by the time it gets built, if it ever is built."

See MX,
Page 3A

RJ B-14-80



MX PROTEST - An unidentified delegate raises an anti-MX missile sign during the Wednesday session of the Democratic National Convention in New York. Delegates were debating a portion of the party's platform supporting the installation of the MX in Nevada and Utah. AP photo

From Page 1A

"I'm very sorry that we're going to have another farce perpetrated upon us," she said after the convention decision.

Collins, who gave a big sigh of relief when the results were announced, was restrained in his joy.

"I think the best interests of the country have been served," he said. "Now it's doubly important that we turn our efforts to the future and protecting our interests (in Nevada)."

Of major concern, Collins said, was keeping a close tab on federal economic and environmental assistance to areas that will be directly impacted by the missile system, which is expected to be deployed in Nevada and Utah.

The MX amendment was the last move supported by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and although he has dropped out of the race, in some states the arguments continued to involve splits in the party.

During floor discussion of the MX proposal, Defense Secretary Harold Brown made a direct appeal for the system, calling it "the essence of deterrence." President Carter sent delegates a handwritten note containing a personal appeal for their support.

A rival view was presented by former U.S. arms negotiator Paul Warnke.

"The MX encourages the delusion we can

have a middle level nuclear war in which the good guys win...The MX system is not needed for our security. It would increase the risk of nuclear war."

The Nevada delegates voting in favor of the anti-MX proposal were Virginia Cain of Reno; Cecilia Colling of Sparks; Renee Rampton of Las Vegas; Ed Johnson of Carson City; Larry Luna of Las Vegas; Ellen Nelson of Carson City; Aileen O'Neil of North Las Vegas; Marty Reyes of Elko; Marie Ripps of Las Vegas; Valerie Spagnolo of Reno; Harriet Trudell of Las Vegas and Lise Wyman of Las Vegas.

Voting against the amendment were Frank Alexander of Las Vegas; Jon Collins of Las Vegas; Albert DeMers of Sparks; John Giomi Jr. of Yerington; Bob Price of North Las Vegas and Felix Valdez of Las Vegas.

After the vote, Giome and DeMers said they voted against the amendment but favored instead a compromised plan that was withdrawn after the convention approved the MX plank. That compromise would not have banned deployment of the missile but would have called for further study.

Among other Western states, Utah voted against the MX by a 17-3 tally, Arizona opposed the system 17-12, Colorado opposed it 19-18. Wyoming favored the

system by a 5-4 vote.

New Mexico, which has been mentioned as another site for the system, opposed the MX 11-9, while Texas, another potential site, overwhelmingly approved the MX 109-31.

MX models exhibited at festivity

Visitors to this week's Lincoln County Fair in Panaca may inspect replicas of the MX missile, while up the road in Ely the White Pine County organizers aren't allowing any shows of America's missile might.

Both the Air Force and the Eastern Nevadans Opposed to MX have been denied booths at the White County Fair.

"It's been the fair policy not to have anything controversial," said fair chairman Linda Tweedy.

Only a few years ago, the pro-Equal Rights Amendment organizers were denied a booth at the White County Fair, she added.

But in Panaca, guests may walk through an Air Force exhibit about the missile system and then head out into a field where an MX replica is parked, along with several missiles which resemble those in the Soviet military arsenal.

The Air Force proposes to build much of the \$56 billion missile system in the two counties.

Army starts MX hiring

Though a decision on where the MX will be built is four months away, the Army Corps of Engineers already has begun to seek help in constructing the \$56 billion missile system.

The Corps of Engineers has been advertising for senior engineers and scientists since June 27, according to its office in San Francisco. A brochure also has been published which encourages architect-engineer and construction firms to begin bidding on the project's construction contracts.

The construction and design for the MX missile system will be handled by the Corps of Engineers.

AF Seeking MX Water

CARSON CITY (UPI) — The Air Force, to support its MX missile project, has filed a water right application in the Steptoe Valley east of Ely.

The amount of water sought for its is not specified. Applications already on file before the Air Force request seek much more water than remains in the basin.

Steptoe has an average yield of 70,000 acre feet, of which 50,000 acre feet already have been applied for. However, applications totaling more than 100,000 acre feet are pending. State law says water will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

SUN 8-19-80

RJ 8-14-80

RJ 8-14-80

Russell Baker/Observer

MX: No Way To Treat A Bomb

NY Times News Service
Assignment: Ride a railroad operated by the U.S. government.

Purpose: Determine whether you would entrust an intercontinental rocket and an atomic bomb to the above mode of transportation.

Fuller explanation: The U.S. government plans to build and operate a railroad that will carry rockets and atomic bombs in circles in the western desert. The project will cost billions. We wish to determine whether the U.S. government has the knowhow to carry off this project or whether it is in over its head.

Investigator's memorandum: Unable to find any government operated train that goes around in circles, so settled for traveling in a straight line from Baltimore to New York via Amtrak train called "The Crescent."

At Baltimore decided to book reserved club car seat since wanted

to simulate problem of transporting atomic bomb as closely as possible and assumed government would want atomic bomb transported first class rather than coach.

Ticket agent unable to provide requested reserved seat. "Computer is down," he said. Fancy talk. Means computer is broken. Bad sign. If computer not working, not much chance of atomic bomb getting launched to correct target.

Agent said board train first, then ask conductor for reserved seat. Proceeded to waiting room carrying luggage weighing approximately same as atomic bomb and intercontinental rocket combined. Crescent 10 minutes late, according to bulletin board. Waited 10 minutes, then bulletin board said Crescent 20 minutes late. Amtrak man said Crescent sometimes four hours late.

Encouraged by this, since means Russians unable to take out American bomb by bombing Baltimore

Station at Crescent's scheduled arrival time.

Aboard train, asked conductor for first class car to park bomb-weight luggage. No dice. Left first class cars off train, he said.

"Suppose I was transporting an



atomic bomb," I said.

"You'd have to park it in the aisle of the coach like everybody else," he said. Right on. All overhead luggage racks filled. All coach

seats filled. All aisles cluttered with luggage.

Question: How expect government that can't transport luggage adequately by train to carry atom bomb and big missile around countryside without making nasty mess?

Unable to find seat, so sat on simulated bomb in aisle. Gave me the hot sweats thinking of U.S. government rail operators riding around sitting on atom bombs in coach aisles. Then discovered everybody in coach had hot sweats.

Asked woman beside me if she was sweating because also transporting simulated atom bomb. "No," she said. "Sweating because air-conditioning not working."

Very observant woman. Outside temperature that day 100 degrees. Inside temperature: 130 degrees. Asked conductor why air-conditioning not working. "Forgot to put water in at Washington," he said.

Question: If U.S. operated trains forget to put water in air conditioner on 100-degree day, what chance they'll forget to put atom bomb in rocket missile on Doomsday?

Train windows steamed up so heavy couldn't see outside world. Strong sensation of traveling in submarine. Doesn't U.S. already have excellent submarines for transporting bomb and rocket? Why need land-based submarine with overcrowded luggage racks?

Train slowed to crawl, making easy target for enemy missiles.

"Workmen improving track and roadbed," said conductor. "When finished, train will ride smoother."

"When will that be?" Conductor very vague. Years and years in future, apparently. U.S. government not snappy railroad builders like Japanese and Europeans.

Question: If U.S. government re-

quires years and years to improve existing track and roadbed and still can't remember water for the air-conditioner, can it build whole new railroad in Cactus Belt before end of 25th Century?

Heard rumor of air-conditioning in diner, struggled to same through damp bodies clogging aisles of intervening coaches. Sure enough, cooler. Ordered cheeseburger. "Will you settle for hamburger?" asked waiter. "We're out of cheese."

Settled for hamburger, but very depressed about U.S. government train being out of cheese, since a railroad that can't maintain reliable cheese supply seems likely when the crucial moment comes to find out that it's out of warheads.

Question: Has anybody in the U.S. government who proposes this multi-billion U.S. government-operated railroad for bombs and rockets ever ridden a U.S. government-operated railroad?

Sun 8.22.1980

Futures Commission Dominated By MX

RENO (UPI) — The Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada met in Reno Monday to work out details of its preliminary draft report to the governor and Legislature and, as in previous meetings, the subject of MX dominated discussion.

Clark County's Bob Broadbent said the commission report should discuss plans for handling the MX missile system whether members believe MX should be built. But when commission member Greg Austin proposed a statement opposing MX, Broadbent and other members said they weren't ready to go that far.

"If it's coming, let's be ready for it," Broadbent said. "Maybe we don't want it because of its effect on Nevada, but

I'm not ready to say the Department of Defense is full of crap."

State Sen. Jean Ford said planning measures for MX should be "plugged into the report along the way." But she joined Broadbent in opposing an anti-MX statement in the report. She pointed out that the earlier future commission resolution against MX in Ely was made by only nine of the 25 members. Nearly half the members missed that meeting and she said the commission is no where near unanimous in opposing the system.

Assemblyman Steve Coulter said he would be willing to state his opposition to MX in Nevada.

"I think I sense a reluctance by this

commission to get involved in anything controversial," he said.

He was joined by Austin, who said "if we don't take a stand, we're not doing anything."

Commission Chairman Morton Galane objected to Coulter's remarks, saying the commission is involved in controversial matters and is attempting to respond, not avoid them. He indicated he thinks it is too early for the commission to decide on MX, but that the possibility the system will be built in Nevada must be taken into consideration.

The motion calling for a statement opposing MX was tabled.

State lands administrator Jac Shaw told the commission he objects to portions of the initial draft requiring all areas of the state to develop regional master plans.

He said the state "should not try to order local governments, but should try to work with them instead."

Shaw said his office has made great progress in working with rural areas to develop master planning, but on a cooperative basis. He argued against issuing a mandate telling areas of the state not only to develop regional plans but how to do the plans.

Commission member Harry Massoth said the reason for that section is because of situations like Lake Tahoe. He said unless regional planning is enforced, "the ecological problems in 20 years are going to be enormous."

He was joined by Sen. Ford, who said "we've been 10 years trying to convince local governments to do some comprehensive planning," she said that

method hasn't worked and that state guidelines appear to be necessary.

Broadbent pointed out that he doesn't think rural areas don't want to plan.

"They don't have the resources to do it," he said.

Alex Fittinghof said there are major differences in the planning needs of urban areas and rural areas. He said one rural county is now considering a \$350,000 plan which he described as being "10 times more than they need."

Hearings will be held in October on the initial draft of the future commission report. After the report is finalized at the end of the year, it will be presented to the governor and the Nevada Legislature in the spring for possible changes in state law.

504 8-26-80

Prof calls MX 'strategy of disaster'

By Dolores Wood
R-J Staff Writer

A University of Utah law professor Saturday told a news conference that plans for the MX Missile system are a "strategy of unmitigated disaster."

Edwin Brown Firmage, who served on the staff of Vice President Hubert Humphrey and was a United Nations Visiting Scholar in 1970, was the keynote speaker at a UNLV rally to protest the MX.

Firmage said the system is based on the "great sponge" theory, which would have 4,600 target points in Utah and Nevada that are designed to absorb most of the 5,000 warheads of the Soviet Union's land-based missile system.

The 4,600 missile containers would be used to hide the nation's 200 MX missiles from the Soviets so the country would be unable to determine which containers had the weapons and which were empty, he said.

Officials are hoping the Soviets would be deterred from a nuclear war because they would not want to expend most of their 5,000 land-based missiles to wipe out the MX, he said.

"But what if deterrence fails?" he said. "If you put every one of your eggs in a deterrence basket, you've increased enormously the potential for destruction," he said.

See MX,
Page 4A

MX

From Page 1A

The professor said one myth spread about the system is that the United States needs the MX for national security. He said there are other ways to achieve that security.

The nation's other missile systems, such as the Minuteman, the Trident and Polaris, are deterrents that do not bring such a large risk along with them, because they do not include as targets a vast area of empty "shells," he said.

Firmage also said without a SALT II agreement, the system must be open-ended if it is to accomplish its goal.

"The Soviets could double or triple their number of warheads in five years," he said.

The United States in turn would have to follow suit by increasing the missile sites to continue the threat that the Soviet Union would use up all its missiles in the Southwest, he said.

In such a move, Firmage said, the potential for destruction is even more.

"I'm afraid we will get ourselves into a position we can't get ourselves out of. At some point, we reach a point of no return," he said.

"You can't let a thing go on with the idea that you will turn it off later. You may not be able to turn it off later. That is the way you end lives," he said.

Firmage said he was in Las Vegas in an effort "to continue to try to get people to tell their congressmen and the president that this (the MX concept) is terrible."

"It will waste billions of dollars needed by our military for tanks, planes, guns, and adequate pay scales to make a volunteer army work," he said. "It will devour our water, our land, our energy resources and our communities."

He cited the Mount St. Helens volcano eruption as an example of what could occur if a nuclear war began while the United States had the MX.

"The same wind that carried the volcanic ash across the country would carry radioactive fallout," he said.

He said he tells people in areas where the ash fell, "How would you like to be knee deep in radioactivity instead of a little volcanic ash?"

Firmage said the system showed even worse strategy because it is in the middle of the country, and the entire farm belt could be wiped out by the radioactive drift in the event of a war.

"You don't put the target in the middle of your own country. You put it on the coast, so that it crosses the ocean and hits another country before it comes back to you," he said.

RJ 8-24-80

Saunders Expresses Reservations On MX

Though registering some concerns about the MX missile program, Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives Vince Saunders called for increased and more effective defense spending.

Appearing on KLAS-TV's "On the Record" Sunday, Saunders said he is concerned the MX missile program holds "dangers" for Nevada and Utah.

"I haven't seen it proven to me yet that water is available," Saunders said. "I would like to see them drill first to see if water is there."

The GOP congressional candidate also said Nevada might not be able to absorb the "mass infusion of dollars" MX will bring.

Asked whether he approves of negotiating reduced nuclear testing with the USSR, Saunders said, "We should not enter into any agreement with the Russians."

He also said Nevadans exposed to fallout from nuclear testing should be compensated in some matter. "The federal government should be held accountable, just as accountable as business."

Saunders said incumbent Jim Santini, a Democrat, has "come down on the wrong side of issues" as they affect

Nevadans several times during his three House terms.

He pointed to Santini's support of President Carter and the "liberal" Congress's spending programs, as well as Santini's stand on the Equal Rights Amendment.

"He took a walk on the ERA," Saunders told reporters.

"Nevada voted 2-1 against having ERA at all, and Santini by his absence let it pass out of the Judiciary Committee by a 17-16 vote."

Questioned about his ability to represent Nevadans in Congress, Saunders said he doesn't know of many state problems that cannot be handled by the state. He added that most problems con-

gressmen would deal with are "national and international in scope."

"The problems are coming from Washington, and I think anyone with a fair amount of decent business background and a logical approach can address the issues in total," Saunders continued. "Local issues are not something I would be directly involved in."

Saunders also said that while he is opposed to national health insurance, he favors protecting Americans with some sort of "catastrophic insurance" that would be offered in conjunction with the private sector.

MX Gaining Public Acceptance

A heavily publicized anti-MX rally at UNLV drew a University of Utah law professor, a Nevada legislator from Reno, several members of the news media, a band and less than 50 participants. The rally, last Saturday, was well planned by Nevadans Opposed to MX (NO MX). The public response was another indication that most Nevadans are not really upset about the MX missile program coming to their state. Nevertheless the antis have served a useful purpose.

Changes In Utah

In Utah last week a Deseret newspaper poll showed that Utahns shifted from opposition to the MX to about being evenly divided for and against the defense system. The poll of 600 Utahns showed 44 percent favor MX and the same amount oppose the plan.

The most recent Utah poll is in sharp contrast to a like poll taken in March which showed 60.2 percent opposed to MX and 31.5 percent favored the plan to hide 200 nuclear weapons under the desert floor of Utah and Nevada.

The Utah pollster points out that Utahns are more knowledgeable about MX than they were five months ago. The same is probably true of Nevadans as a result of an open and aggressive educational program conducted by the U.S. Air Force.

Nothing New In New York

This makes one wonder if the anti-MX sentiment expressed by Nevada and Utah delegates to the National Democratic Convention in New York City was a true expression of the people they were supposed to represent. Representing sentiment different than that supported by home folks is nothing new for Nevada Democrats going to conventions. In 1972 the Nevada delegates were dominated by McGovern supporters. George McGovern and his policies found little sympathy among Nevadans of any political persuasion.

The change in the public sentiment about MX will probably continue in both Utah and Nevada as a result of open discussion. Support from both the labor and business people of Southern Nevada is rapidly moving the sentiment away from the NO MX group. However, we expect another surge of NO MX support to flower next month when UNLV students return to campus from out of state. This will be the last short lived burst of opposition if the Air Force continues open discussion of policies and plans.

A Long Road To Acceptance

Congressional pleas to bring planning and action dollars into Utah and Nevada must produce results prior to adjournment this year. Any slackening in efforts to meet the identifiable needs of state and local government can set back the program and damage the new found support it is receiving. Equal damage in public opinion can be suffered unless the environmental impact statement is adequate and the location of the base camp is not made public by February 1981.

The plans for MX in Utah and Nevada have come a long way toward public acceptance. There is still a long road ahead which can only be successfully traversed by a Congress and Department of Defense sensitive to the public needs. Needs which must be met so we can all work together for a stronger United States.

SUN 8-26-80

Opponent of MX almost won fight

By Robert Walters
NEW YORK (NEA) — They say you can't fight city hall.

But "they" never met a 45-year-old lawyer from Portland, Ore., appropriately named Joe Smith.

At the recent Democratic National Convention here, Smith challenged not city hall but the White House — and forced the entire federal establishment to pay attention to his one-man crusade against the MX missile.

Smith's efforts eventually were repulsed, but only after the country's most powerful politicians and government officials mounted a counter-campaign of unparalleled scope to sway delegates who initially opposed the MX by an overwhelming margin. That campaign included:

- A hand-written letter penned by President Carter and distributed to every delegate at the convention.

- A hastily scheduled Washington-to-New York trip by Defense Secretary Harold Brown, personally summoned by the president to address the convention on the issue.

- A high-level Carter administration lobbying blitz that directly involved virtually every member of the president's cabinet.

- Elaborate briefings for hundreds of delegates conducted by White House Press Secretary Jody Powell and other senior aides to the president.

All of that energy was expended to turn back Smith's determined effort to insert in the Democratic party's 1980 platform a single paragraph that read:

"Our only objective in maintaining a credible, powerful strategic nuclear arsenal is to enhance security. We recognize that at some point increasing that arsenal becomes counter-productive, by producing new risks which outweigh apparent military advantage. We therefore oppose deployment of the MX missile."

That view is shared by a number of leading authorities free to speak because they have retired from government service. Included in that category are Gen.

Maxwell D. Taylor, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Lt. Gen. Daniel V. Graham, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; Paul C. Warnke, former chief SALT negotiator; and Herbert Scoville, former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Protagonists on both sides of the MX debate generally agree that the United States' land-based Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles will become increasingly vulnerable to the Soviet Union's ICBMs during the 1980s.

The flimsiness of the White House position is typified by the opening sentence of a four-page briefing paper on the issue distributed by Carter operatives at the convention: "The MX ICBM is needed to protect America from the threat of a nuclear Pearl Harbor."

When Brown was asked about that somewhat hysterical warning of a sneak nuclear attack, he promptly renounced it: "I did not imply and the president does not believe that the Soviets are necessarily planning an attack on the United States."

Smith, a typically somber attorney, is neither an ideological zealot nor a single-issue fanatic. He has long been active in politics in his home state of Oregon, was a delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, was a firmly committed Carter delegate at this year's convention and has just been elected chairman of his state's Democratic party.

Earlier this year, he took his carefully researched anti-MX crusade to a subcommittee of the convention's platform Committee, but lost there by the narrowest possible margin — 10 1/4 to 10.

The full platform committee rejected the proposal by a vote of 75 to 69.5, while the entire convention turned it aside on a rare call vote of 1,873.9 to 1,276.6.

Although Smith lost those battles, he eventually may win the war because the MX remains a troubled project. More importantly, he demonstrated that a single citizen can indeed force the politically powerful to take heed of his ideas.

\$52 Bil. Defense Bill Gets Nod; Includes MX

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Congress today gave final approval to a \$52.8 billion defense authorization bill that includes money for the MX missile system and a new generation of bombers to replace the aging fleet of B-52s. The bill, about \$7 billion more expensive than President Carter had wanted, also includes an 11.7 percent increase for active duty personnel, re-enlistment bonuses, increases in per diem travel allowances, and new procedures for retired pay computation adjustment.

First the House, by a vote of 360-49, passed the legislation. Then, early Tuesday evening, the Senate followed suit, 78 to 2 with Sens. William Proxmire, D-Wis., and Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., voting in opposition.

It now goes to the White House for the president's signature.

"This bill is a new start . . . to the most modern weaponry that science can devise," said Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Proxmire argued against acceptance, saying the conference report hammered out by Senate and House members, was fully of "budgetary excesses," misplaced priorities and inflationary impact.

Included in the bill is \$1.6 billion for the MX missile in the new fiscal year starting Oct. 1, and \$120 million in new money for civil defense. The money for the MX would go toward its multiple protective basing system, and the bill urges its completion "with all reasonable speed."

Nearly \$37.8 billion would be authorized for weapon and equipment procurement, including \$16.6 billion for aircraft and helicopters, \$8.4 billion for new warships, and \$2.3 billion for tanks and other armored vehicles for the Army and Marines.

Nearly \$17 billion is earmarked for military research, development, testing and evaluation.

The measure would stipulate that no more than 35 percent of new male recruits may be high school dropouts.

SUN 8-27-80

Group Slates MX Meeting

The head of the Small Business Administration office at California's Norton AFB, which lets contracts for the MX missile in Nevada, will speak at an open meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Uptown Las Vegas.

Lurman Neal's talk is scheduled for noon Thursday in the Fremont Hotel.

Air Force officials, according to Kiwanis President Roger Burnley, have pledged that small businesses will be eligible for contracts. However, no preference will be given to local contractors.

Neal's Kiwanis appearance will be his only presentation in Las Vegas. Burnley said he is making Thursday's meeting public so that the business community will have an opportunity to have its questions answered.

SUN 8-28-80

MX strategists open meetings

Nevada and Utah MX missile strategists opened two days of meetings in Las Vegas on Wednesday with a plea to tiny communities in the proposed deployment area to publicize the problems they expect from missile construction.

"We have to be coordinated," said Mike Daly, economic development coordinator for the City of Las Vegas. "We're trying to get all communities to respond with the particular problems they're going to have."

Daly said local and state officials from both Utah and Nevada must present a strong, unified response to the Pentagon's long-awaited environmental impact statement on the MX missile. The statement originally was due last month, but Air Force spokesmen now say the statement will not be finished until late September.

"Everyone's kind of waiting on the impact statement," Daly said. "It's now a matter of waiting to see what that document will tell us about the Air Force plans."

Steve Bradhurst, director of the Nevada MX Project Field Office, said this week's meetings will enable local officials to develop a joint request for federal funds to help communities weather the effects MX will have on public facilities and resources.

"We have to determine how the bucks can come to the state and local communities to most minimize environmental impact," he said.

Officials will meet again Thursday at Las Vegas City Hall with representatives of the Air Force, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management to discuss the Pentagon's latest proposals for MX deployment.

Air Force to select probable MX missile sites

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Though the release of a report on the effects of the MX missile system has been delayed at least until fall, a top Air Force official Thursday in Las Vegas said probable sites for missiles will be staked in September in a valley near Caliente.

Staking in the Dry Lake Valley west of Caliente must be done now so the Air Force can keep its MX construction schedule, said Antonia Handler Chayes, the undersecretary of the Air Force.

In a speech full of political undertones, Chayes also said those who call for military superiority are "simplistic and dangerous." Her comments were directed at Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan.

"We are confident we are moving toward essential equivalency," said Chayes, appointed to her job by President Carter. "It is unlikely we ever will again be superior to the Soviet Union."

The first concrete shelters in the proposed 200-missile, 4,600-shelter MX system are scheduled for completion in 1986. The missiles will be scrambled from shelter to shelter in an attempt to make it near impossible for Soviet missiles to hit.

"We are not espousing a first-strike policy," Chayes added. "The MX is our answer to the vulnerability which has developed as a result of the accuracy and numbers of Soviet warheads."

With the MX, the Air Force believes the Soviets would not dare attack the United States because they would be wasting their missiles "by shooting at empty garages," the undersecretary said. The

United States then could retaliate by sending missiles from untouched submarines and B-52 bombers toward targets inside the Soviet Union.

Chayes also said the Air Force could not guarantee only 4,600 missile shelters would be built.

"We can't guarantee what the Soviets will do," Chayes said. "If they escalate, then we will be able to add to the MX in the same territorial areas we have now."

However, the Air Force has not yet even acquired land for the project or released a draft environmental impact statement on how the \$56 billion MX would affect proposed sites in Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas.

That report will not be ready until late fall because the preliminary document "had a great deal of raw data which would be difficult for you to understand," Chayes told a crowd of 275 which attended a Nevada Development Authority meeting in the Desert Inn.

She later told a press gathering the Air Force was not "satisfied" with the preliminary impact document.

"The Air Force has an interest in doing it right. We want to organize data so people can read and understand it," Chayes said.

The undersecretary stressed the Air Force will permit three months of public comment after the report is released.

The report is sure to provoke a lot of criticism, Chayes added.

"We have been threatened with lawsuit by the Sierra Club," Chayes said. "We'd be glad to litigate it. We haven't lost a suit yet." Missile site surveys near Caliente will be carried out by Fugro

National Inc., the Air Force's consulting firm. These consultants will stake locations for shelter sites, trying to keep them compatible with the current use of land. A similar survey will begin in Utah's Pine and Wah Wah valleys in October.

Surveying also is "being planned" for the potential basing areas in Texas and New Mexico, the Air Force stated.

Up to now, the Air Force has said it would follow state law in acquiring water for the missile system. Chayes, however, said the Air Force "will ask for priority to build the system."

State officials must protest if the Air Force asks that its water requests be moved ahead of others already being considered, Chayes said.

She concentrated on the need to achieve military equivalency with the Soviet Union during her address to the Nevada Development Authority, a business group that wants the MX main base to be built near Lincoln-Clark County.

Until President Carter came in office in 1977, the United States "simply had not kept pace" with Soviet military spending, Chayes said.

Real spending for defense purposes had declined 35 percent before Carter entered office. Since then he has boosted spending by 10 percent, she said.

"There are many places in the world where we need to worry," Chayes added. "There is a growing threat by the Soviet Union which seeks to expand its influence."

She said the Pentagon has been watching closely what happens in Poland.

Santini's prediction on MX impact statement comes true

R-J Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — He won't say "I told you so," but Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., predicted the Air Force would not be able to meet its timetable for the release of an Environmental Impact Statement for the MX missile system.

"I said when they set their initial timetable that it was woefully optimistic," Santini said.

A second scheduled release of the EIS fell through this week and the Air Force now says it hopes to have the EIS ready for release by mid-September. The document was originally targeted for completion in July.

Air Force officials say delays have been caused by changes in plans for deployment of the 200-missile, 4,600-shelter system. The federal government has now been forced, for instance, to explore the possibility of placing only half of the system in the Nevada-Utah desert.

And earlier this year the Air Force scrapped its novel plan to shuttle the missiles around a circular loop of shelters (known as the "racetrack" deployment method) in favor of a less land-intensive "linear" alignment.

The congressman said flatly that the Air Force had underestimated its task, which will assess the impact of 4,000 missile shelters in an area of 12,000 to 15,000 square miles that would consume 112 billion gallons of water. Military officials have been formally working on the EIS since January.

"They (the Air Force) are now running up against those very cold, hard problems and finding it does take longer to deal with them than they initially thought," Santini said.

Other sources on Capitol Hill surmised that the Air Force is "treading very carefully" in preparation of the EIS, since its contents almost certainly will be

used as ammunition by MX opponents in their uphill battle against the system.

No matter when the EIS is released, there will be a federally requested 90-day period for the public to review and comment on the report's findings.

One group that has already indicated it would be combing the EIS with interest is the House public lands subcommittee, of which Santini is chairman.

What concerns Santini is the prospect that the time consumed in preparation of the EIS is indicative of the document's complexity.

"It seems to me to suggest that we're going to have some trouble ourselves in trying to respond to that document and assess the impacts that it analyzes on the state of Nevada," Santini said. "We're on a very short leash. We have 90 days to find out what's in that document and determine if its conclusions are accurate or fallacious."

R J 8-29-80



Nevada opposition to MX grows

A public opinion poll scheduled to be released next week shows the number of Nevadans opposing the proposed MX missile system has more than doubled in the past year, with those against the missile system now in the majority.

The Rocky Mountain Poll, an independent, non-partisan survey taken during July, shows 53 percent of Nevadans surveyed are against the missile system, with 40 percent in favor of its development. The remaining 7 percent were undecided.

The finding was in marked contrast to the same poll taken last summer, which showed only 26 percent of Nevadans against the missile system.

Pollster Earl de Berge, whose survey covers eight western states, said Nevada's swing against the missile system was the biggest shift of any of the states surveyed.

In Utah, for example, where half the system is slated to go, only 6 percent more residents were against the system than a year ago, and Utahans are the only state of the eight that favor development of the system.

In general, de Berge said, women are more apt to be against development of the system, although more males have recently turned against it.

The Rocky Mountain Poll, taken under the auspices of the Behavior Research Center in Phoenix, samples more than 1,000 adult heads of households throughout the eight Rocky Mountain states.

Pollsters say the margin of error could be as high as three percentage points.

R J B-31-80

Carter MX, Energy Programs Too Much

Western Governors Complain

PARK CITY, Utah (UPI) — Western governors Thursday said the Carter Administration is expecting too much from their states by both calling on the region to house the MX Missile system and sustain rapid energy development.

Nevada Gov. Robert List told a meeting of the Western Governors' Policy Office (WESTPO) that the MX project, — estimated to cost up to \$53 billion — and energy development would compete for the same labor, raw materials and scarce water resources.

The Air Force wants to deploy the giant

MX complex in desert areas of Utah and Nevada. And the Energy Department is pressing the western states to develop a synthetic fuel industry with at least \$20 billion in federal funds.

"The potential conflicts of manpower, material, boom-level population growth and severely limited impact assistance could have a chilling effect upon domestic energy development, as well as compromising the national defense," said List.

Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm said energy development would increase the

population in the Intermountain Region by more than 1 million people during the decade of the 1980s.

Lamm said such developments would create a need for 38,000 additional police and firemen, 216 million gallons of culinary water, 11,000 doctors, 26,000 new hospital beds, and more than 100 new schools.

"We are in the eye of an energy hurricane," Lamm said.

List said MX and synthetic fuel development will be the largest public works projects in the history of the United States. But the Nevada governor said the federal

government is "providing virtually no coordination" between the two giant projects.

List will ask the nine governors attending the WESTPO conference to approve a resolution asking Congress to hold hearings on possible conflicts between MX and sythentic fuels development.

Host Gov. Scott Matheson of Utah opened the two-day conference by warning the governors that the future of the West will be decided in Washington unless the western states stick together and "push back the federal monolith."

SUN 9-5-80

MX Compromise Measure OK'd

By PENNY LEVIN
SUN Staff Writer

Members of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada reflected the mixed emotions of many Nevadans toward the MX missile system Monday when the panel passed a compromise resolution questioning the advisability of the program.

The resolution states in part: "We believe that this resolution still represents the feelings of many of the people in our various communities and the feelings of many of the members of this commission.

"We recognize that there is much debate within Nevada and among military experts as to whether or not the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force have shown sufficient need for this system or have shown it to be the best alternative."

However, the commission agreed extensive planning for the system should continue so that the state will be

prepared for the system if it is located in Nevada, noting that "we recognize the serious environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the MX on Nevada and Utah.

"We also encourage further comprehensive studies on the deployment of MX in other areas of this country to mitigate local adverse impacts.

"If MX is to come to Nevada, we must do all we can to maximize the benefits from MX and minimize the adverse impacts."

Several persons opposed to the MX missile appeared at the commission meeting at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

A spokesman for the regional Sierra Club told the commission that people are "letting the Air Force make our home into one gigantic federal defense facility."

Bill Vincent of Citizens Alert said it is the commission's function to look out for Nevada's future and the welfare of its citizens, not to

determine if a specific military system is advisable.

"The commission should be looking at what the MX would do to the ranching industry or to the state's water supply," Vincent said.

Two commission members concerned with the MX — Harry Massoth of Reno and Greg Austin of Winnemucca — wrote a resolution several commission members, including Clark County Commissioner Bob Broadbent, called a "pacifist approach."

Austin referred to the MX as a "doomsday machine" and said the system would never be put in use.

However, state Sen. Lawrence Jacobsen of Minden said the current military equipment was as outdated as a 1955 car and newer

systems were necessary.

Commission members also agreed to the concept of the state taking control and ownership of public lands

only if certain concerns are addressed.

They include multiple-use concepts and disposal methods.

Futures Commission adopts MX compromise

By Dale Pugh
R-J Staff Writer

The Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada adopted a compromise resolution Monday that neither supports nor opposes the MX missile project, but calls for extensive planning if it is to be built in the state.

The unanimously adopted resolution, reached after several hours of debate, expresses the commission's division over MX, but agrees proper planning is necessary if the project comes to Nevada.

"We recognize that there is much debate within Nevada and among military experts as to whether or not the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force have shown sufficient need for this system or have shown it to be the best. The commission, however, agrees that extensive planning for the system should continue so that the state will be prepared for the system if it comes," the resolution states.

The resolution calls for the state and local governments to closely analyze and supplement federal government impact statements, develop planning programs and develop a strong policy regarding the attainment of federal funds to offset the adverse impacts of the MX.

The board's resolution combines aspects of proposals from members Greg Austin, a Winnemucca mining engineer, and Clark County Commissioner Bob Broadbent.

In his proposal, Austin stressed the need for planning, but also listed several reasons for non-deployment of the missile system.

"The federal government has not shown sufficient need for this system nor have they shown it to be the best alternative," Austin said.

According to Austin's proposal, the funds could be better used elsewhere, the system is not relevant to the type of aggression in the world today and the system is antiquated and cost ineffective.

A portion of Austin's proposal was adopted by the commission on April 7, but met with heavy objection from some members.

That proposal called for the Air Force to demonstrate the necessity of the system, which some members contend has been done since April.

Clark County's proposal, presented by Broadbent, expresses no support or opposition to the project, but stresses proper planning.

"It remains to be seen whether all the missile system will be deployed in the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah...." Broadbent's proposal read. "Regardless of the number of missile shelters constructed ... the economic environmental and social impacts to the directly affected cities and counties in Nevada will be considerable."

The compromise agreement was reached after debate about the two stands and input from Nevadans Opposed to MX.

Jeff van Ee, acting chairman of Nevadans Opposed to MX, reminded the commissioners that the final decision about the MX has not been made.

"Those people who say MX is inevitable have forgotten this is the state that started the Sagebrush Rebellion," van Ee said.

Commission debate centered around Austin's challenge of the strategic necessity of the system.

"I really don't think it's in the best interest of Nevada for the Futures Commission to try and guess what the defense need of our country is," Broadbent said.

"There has been a finding by the U.S. Congress that it is necessary," Morton Galane, commission chairman, said. "We must be prepared to subordinate the privilege of Nevada to the interests of the country."

However, Austin maintained the need for the system has never been proven.

"We should grab the bull by the horns and say it's not in the best

interest," Austin said. "We question the need and until we get absolute proof it is in the best interest of Nevada we should not prostrate ourselves."

In other business, the Futures Commission also adopted a resolution supporting the Sagebrush Rebellion.

The resolution, however, was approved with 10 recommendations to be implemented if federally held land is transferred to the state.

The conditions ask that the land be accessible to the public, that cities and counties to have input into any sale of the land and that the state replace federal revenue that would be lost by the transfer.

The federal government pays funds to local governments in lieu of property tax that cannot be charged on the land.

RJ 9-9-80

Coyote Springs MX Choice

SPARKS (UPI) — Coyote Springs, 37 miles north of Las Vegas, seems to be the Air Force's preferred location for the main base of operations of the MX missile system, Mayor Ron Player said Tuesday.

He said they pledged to "mitigate any and all impacts to Sparks, if there were any." Player said the Air Force is also considering placing the main staging base of operations near Ely or one of four western Utah communities, but Southern Nevada seemed to be the favorite because Las Vegas could absorb the impact of the project "plus Las Vegas basically wants it."

Player met recently with Pentagon officials concerning the project's possible impact on Sparks. He said they indicated there will be "minimal or no impact" on Northern Nevada if the main base is built at Coyote Springs.

SUN 9-10-80

Anderson Opposes Missile Project

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. (UPI) — John Anderson told workers at a major defense plant Thursday that he wants to scrap the MX missile project on which many of them are employed.

Anderson spoke at TRW Inc., a mammoth aerospace-defense plant which has a \$50 million contract for research and development of the expensive new mobile-based missile. Some 500 TRW employees work on the project.

"I didn't come here just to tweak your noses in some kind of strategy of confrontation to tell you I want to take your jobs away, because I am sensitive to concerns Americans have," Anderson said.

"I just happen to believe that's (the MX missile) not the best way to spend \$65 billion. I think there's a better way, there's a cheaper way."

He said the money of an Anderson administration budget would be used to "beef up basic research" and on the space program — projects that would "keep you on the cutting edge of progress in this country."

"We're going to keep you alive and healthy in a way that I think is compatible not only with our national security but with the equally pure goals of economic security in our country," he said.

In his appearance at TRW, Anderson tossed away his prepared text and roused the crowd with attacks on both major party candidates.

"Thank goodness," he said, "we have an independent organization (League of Women Voters) that says, 'Mr. President, we are going to have a debate with or without you.'"

Anderson said Carter owes the American people an

opportunity to judge his positions, in an appearance the debates would provide.

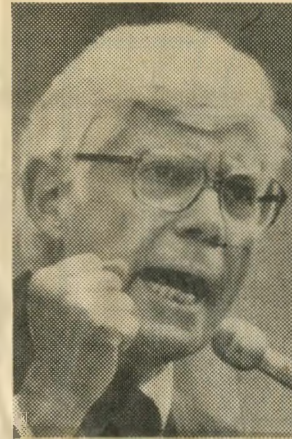
"Yes," he continued, "I am attacking the system that has given us a couple of nominees like Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan of which less than 50 percent of the voters approve."

At an earlier news conference in Beverly Hills, Anderson said testimony by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker showed support for Anderson's opposition to the massive tax cuts proposed by the president and Reagan.

Volcker said Wednesday he opposed major individual tax cuts of the magnitude proposed by Carter and Re-

agan. The president has proposed a \$27 billion cut, while Reagan's cut would be even larger.

Volcker said he supported



JOHN ANDERSON
... Against MX

programs that would make it advantageous for firms to expand and produce jobs — one of the major points of Anderson's call for selected tax cuts for industry.

Anderson is the only one of the three presidential candidates who has not proposed a large tax cut for individuals.

JUN 9-12-80

New town to house missile personnel

By Dick Turpin
Los Angeles Times

A precisely planned new town, unlike any other in the world, is destined to occupy a remote and stark environment somewhere in the now pristine span of the Nevada and Utah deserts.

It will be home for military personnel assigned to the nation's MX missile base, key component of the largest military authorization bill — \$52.9 billion — in American history.

Nearby will be 200 MX missiles, deployed in underground shelters, comprising the nation's principal bastion of de-

fense.

Into this grim, highly sensitive setting, planners, both military and civilian, are attempting to create a community that would assure "a high quality of life" for the 20,000 personnel concerned.

The site for this vast complex is to be announced early next year, according to Department of Defense officials. Although the feasibility of establishing a pair of missile bases — one in the Nevada-Utah area, the other in the Texas-New Mexico sector — is currently under study, the Air Force's Strategic Air Command is known

to favor the former location, because of lower costs and less impact on the environment.

Opposition to the establishment of the base in their areas is being expressed by ranchers, farmers and townsfolk in the far reaches of Nevada and Utah but, as one citizen of Pioche in southeastern Nevada put it resignedly:

"Eighty-seven percent of Nevada is federal land to start with. What the individual thinks isn't going to change their minds."

Field surveys are scheduled to start this month in the Dry Lake Valley of Nevada and

next month in the Pine and Wah Wah valleys in Utah. But the Air Force's environmental impact study will include potential Texas and New Mexico sites.

Gerry Simon, senior vice president of Orange County-based PRC Troups Corp., one of three private consulting firms selected by the Air Force to prepare conceptual plans for the MX weapons system base facilities, said 10,000 square miles is needed, of which about 3,000 acres would accommodate the base — housing, town center, air strip and terminal, hangar and maintenance facilities.

The remainder of the vast 10,000 square miles would be used for an elaborate system of missiles, to be stored in a "rotating" arsenal, dependent upon the fate of SALT II, which still awaits ratification by the U.S. Senate.

The concept of the MX missile site operating base as envisioned by Simon and his team has been received warmly by Defense Department planners and was described as one of the finest community plans ever prepared for a military community.

It is, virtually, a carefully designed planned community in search of a site, preferably near foothill terrain.

Simon, who is project director, said the plan evolved from a multidisciplined effort by his team, hewing closely to the Air Force's directive to be concerned fully with the "quality of life" at the base. The plan was presented recently to SAC headquarters at Omaha, Neb.

He indicated that elements of the PRC plan could be combined with elements of plans proposed by the two other consulting firms — Benham and Blair in association with W.M.R.T. of

Philadelphia and EDAW of San Francisco.

In the detailed and lengthy research undertaken for the missile base, Simon and his co-workers felt the awesome significance of their work — to provide a city for those who will be responsible for the land-based strategic defense of the Free World.

Urban designers, land use analysts, transportation planners and energy system experts have

never faced such a challenge before.

The PRC team designed their plan around five basic land uses: the town center, low, medium and high-density residential neighborhoods, open space, the airfield and buffer zone and the system of streets, bikeways and walkways.

In its recommendations for energy uses, PRC contemplated use

See MISSILE,
Page 3D

—MISSILE—

From Page 2D

of geothermal areas, because as Simon noted, geothermal steam at 360 degrees Fahrenheit or higher can provide 100 percent of the electric heating and cooling requirements for the planned oasis in the desert.

From quality temporary housing (to avoid a "boom town" atmosphere) for construction workers, and the subsequent conversion of such housing to permanent use of bachelor officers, to the myriad needs of a town of 20,000 residents, the plan took imaginative probing and innovation.

The central purpose being to avoid a military camptown look, the planners charted intimate clusters of modern

homes on tree-lined streets, with easily accessible neighborhood centers, extensive recreational and entertainment facilities (including golf links (27 holes) coursing from one end of town to another) and a town center as the nucleus of the community — all designed to assure the highest quality of life attainable, under these highly unusual circumstances.

The site most likely to be selected for the complex will be chosen from within an area vaguely shaped like the state of Texas, known as the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah. Some sources indicate there is a shade or two less opposition to the plan in Utah than in Nevada.

RJ 9-14-80

Doubts voiced on strategic system

By Robert C. Toth
and
Norman Kempster
Los Angeles Times
DELTA, UTAH —
"From here west is nothing until California," rancher Max Williams said, pushing his brim up against the hot, bleak

distance of the Great Basin. "So little rain you can't even grow stones. Out there the Pentagon wants to play the shell game with the Russians."

"I'm for defense," he added slowly. "We're all patriotic out here, were

even during Vietnam. But I don't know what it'll take to get me happy with hiding 200 of those MX missiles in 4,600 shelters. I just don't like the idea much.

"There's all the construction people and their families — maybe

125,000 total — to come in to build it all, \$50 billion worth, which some say is a bigger project than the Panama Canal and the Great Wall of China. Roads one-fourth as long as the whole interstate highway system. Missiles that will 'dash' between shelters on 'drag strips' — once were 'race track' loops but they changed the design.

"And then it all depends on making the empty shelters give off all the signs of a real missile, even the smell, to fool the clever Russians," Williams said, shaking his head. "I don't know if I can ever

get happy with it."

Long-range strategic nuclear weapons such as intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) are the necessary, but not sufficient, basis for U.S. security now and for the foreseeable future. They have deterred nuclear war so far, and are being modernized to continue to postpone the holocaust.

But amid the heightened fear of Soviet aggressiveness, new doubts are voiced, like those by Williams, about how adequate and reliable — or inadequate and overly expensive — are Pentagon strategic systems on which the nation will

rely for the rest of this century:

— Can the American future really be allowed to depend on how well the smell of an MX missile, as well as its electronic, magnetic, mass, heat and more than 20 other tell-tale "signatures" can be mimicked in the 22 empty shells of each MX missile complex?

"We've got some of the best brains in the Western world on the PLU — preservation of location uncertainty — effort," an Air Force colonel at Strategic Air Command headquarters

See MX,
Page 4D

(Cont'd) →

RJ 9-14-80

MX

From Page 3D

at Omaha, Neb., said. "The 'mobile surveillance shields' at 22 of the 23 shelters have obviously got to work."

— Will the mobile feature of the MX, and of its Soviet counterparts certain to follow, preclude future arms control efforts by making the counting of missile arsenals on both sides too uncertain for safety?

It was the United States in the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty of 1972 that uni-

laterally declared mobile ICBMs would be "inconsistent with the objectives" of the treaty; the Soviets refused to agree.

But now, warned Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a former official in the National Security Agency and the Department of State, "the Soviets may be less meticulous" than the United States in basing their mobile ICBMs in ways to facilitate counting of missiles so SALT limits can be verified.

The United States, for

its part, may move toward anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs), now banned by the 1972 arms treaty, to defend fixed-base ICBMs, undoing the modest arms control achievements of the past decade, Sonnenfeldt added.

— If the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty is not ratified by the Congress, will the unrestrained Soviets add so many warheads to their missiles that they can destroy all empty MX shells and

the full one in a surprise attack, thus negating the entire MX program? The unanimous answer is "yes, but."

The Union of Concerned Scientists calculated that without SALT II, the Soviets can build enough warheads by 1989, without increasing current production rates, "to target all 4,600 MX shelters and make MX obsolete the day we complete it."

But the Air Force replied that more empty MX shelters can always be built to keep ahead of Soviet warheads. The Soviets are not likely to adopt that strategy for other reasons as well, the Air Force chief of staff, Gen. Lew Allen, said in an interview, including the cost of the more warheads and the limits on nuclear bomb material.

Nonetheless, the SALT constraints on strategic arsenals appear in real danger of disappearing. The SALT I treaty expired last year, and although both sides continue to comply with both it and SALT II's restrictions, neither have any legal standing.

The Soviets are reportedly impatient that SALT II, now moribund because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, be ratified or rejected by January, implicitly threatening to cease observing the SALT ceilings afterward.

— Was the decision to proceed concurrently with development and production of the \$5 billion cruise missile program premature?

Only 10 of Boeing's jet powered, winged drones were actually flown and four failed. Ten of a competing design were also flown; four of them also failed. Just three years ago, the Air Force was rudely disinterested

in air-dropped cruise missiles, Defense officials complained, because its top brass feared that the missiles would take funds from the B-1 bomber project so dear to the heart of pilots. Now a total of

3,020 of the nuclear-tipped drones are to be built for 151 aging B-52 bombers — 20 per plane — to provide ground-hugging penetrators of Soviet territory denied See MX, Page 6D

From Page 4D

the big bombers by Soviet air defenses.

— Is the \$28 billion, 14-boat Trident submarine program an unnecessarily fast, big and expensive carrier of missiles that takes money from more worthy ships that the Navy badly needs? The answer seems to be an unqualified "yes."

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, the former chief of Naval operations, has said that the Trident, a replacement for the aging Poseiden sub, "should have been a much smaller ship." Dr. Richard L. Garwin, Harvard professor and IBM defense specialist, said the Trident should have been slower. Both changes would have made them cheaper.

"The purpose of high speed in missile-firing subs is to shorten transit time from home port to patrol area," Garwin said in an interview. "It's wasted on Trident because its missiles will have long ranges (4,000 and 6,000 miles vs. 2,500 miles for Poseiden missiles). The ship reaches patrol stations earlier because of the longer reach of the new missiles. A reactor power plant half the size would have been sufficient. But the submarine was designed independently of the missile."

— Is the alternative to these costly force modernization projects the high-risk "launch on warning" strategy, in which U.S. ICBMs would be launched irretrievably when U.S. satellites, radars and computers warn that the Soviets have begun attacking?

That is one of two al-

ternatives, according to Air Force Undersecretary Antonia H. Chayes.

The other is to return to the strategy of mutual assured destruction, rejected 10 years ago, in which the United States would retaliate for any Soviet attack on U.S. missiles by obliterating Soviet population centers.

Going to war by computer would measurably increase the chances of an accidental nuclear exchange. Not only in "Dr. Strangelove" can wars be blamed on equipment error.

The "glitch" caused by overheating of a 46-cent transistor chip in the North American Air Defense Command computer in June is only the latest example of how malfunctions have put nuclear forces on alert.

In that case, the NORAD computer signaled that a Soviet attack by some 200 missiles had been detected by U.S. satellites and ground radar.

Queried for confirmation, the satellites reported they had seen no missiles. Radar could not have picked up missiles below the horizon. NORAD alerted SAC headquarters, the Pentagon and the White House because the warning could not be ignored, but simultaneously reported it had "no confidence" that the warning was accurate. SAC B-52 bombers nonetheless started engines and alert status of ICBM, was confirmed, the minimal first step in an eight-step chain required to go to nuclear war.

That flap passed with only a few red-faces, but it has been learned that

a "technology-driven crisis" in 1964 led to the first U.S. air raids into Vietnam, and in turn to the Gulf of Tonkin resolution that was the only legal basis of that bloody, divisive war.

The sequence of events, based on two still-secret investigations, was described by two sources as follows:

Electronic signals that torpedos had been fired at the USS Turner Joy were transmitted from the scene, by way of the CRITIC network, within the prescribed 10 minutes, to the secretary of defense and President Lyndon B. Johnson on Aug. 4, 1964. This was two days after an unambiguous attack by North Vietnamese boats on the Joy and its accompanying destroyer.

Johnson phoned Gen. Earl Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — who knew nothing of the new attack — and ordered air strikes at North Vietnamese oil depots. Wheeler promised to execute them in two hours, and Johnson went on national television to announce the retaliatory raids when he believed they were occurring.

But the Naval Task Force Commander off Vietnam, who also did not yet know of the alleged torpedo attack on the Joy, could not perform so rapidly. Johnson had disclosed the strikes before the planes took off.

Three days later, citing the torpedo attack, Congress adopted the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which authorized the president to take "all necessary steps" to repel aggression in the area.

At least one U.S. intelligence agency concluded that, despite the electronic signals, there had been no attack on the Joy. But its analysis reached the president too late to change the course of events, and Johnson never disclosed the finding.

"Bad misjudgments were made because of the great pressure on the president at the time for action, and the incoming information which went directly to him without critical examination suggested a course of action," one source said. "These are some foibles of sophisticated techniques that are centrally controlled, with information getting to the top too fast. That was a technology-driven crisis," he said, and it led to war.

Although some Pentagon critics worry that the United States can go to war too fast, others fear that the president will not have the time and the means to order retaliation. Still others are concerned that existing U.S. weapons will not work when needed.

For example, only
See MX,
Page 7D

From Page 6D

three attempts have been made to launch a Minuteman ICBM from an operational silo in the Midwest, and all have failed. The missiles work fine when transported to Vandenberg Air Force Base, on the Pacific Coast in central California. The five to seven a year that are test-fired are enough "to ensure, according to sampling theory, that we have a 75 percent chance of detecting a 25 percent degradation of missile reliability," a SAC statistician said. Missile reliability is more than 90 percent, he said. But will the 450 Minuteman IIs and 550 Minuteman IIIs actually work in their real environment in a crisis?

"There is no doubt in my mind that these 150 missiles at this base would launch if commanded," said Col. Lloyd K. Houchin, vice commander of the SAC Minuteman wing at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Mo.

missiles out of fear that by 1990, anti-submarine warfare techniques would be advanced enough to find and destroy the submarines.

Also vulnerable, in addition to Minuteman ICBMs, is the U.S. command, control and com-

munications system, a prime target in wartime. "The Soviets believe they can degrade U.S. capabilities by one-third by knocking out our c-cubed facilities," one four-star general said.

The "c-cubed" facilities are built around the

Pentagon's World-Wide Military Command and Control System, a \$10 billion network intended to allow the president (or whoever is "national command authority") to assess an attack; to order retaliation at the start, during, or after an

enemy attack; even to communicate with the enemy, if necessary.

It relies on a variety of See MX, Page 8D

U.S. strategy calls for American ICBM fields to absorb a first strike and still have sufficient ICBMs left — along with missile-carrying submarines and B-52 aircraft — to inflict unacceptable damage on Soviet military targets, as well as on Soviet cities, industry and other civilian targets.

Soviet ICBMs, because of advances in warhead numbers, yield, reliability and accuracy, may be able to destroy 90 percent of fixed-based U.S. ICBMs in a surprise attack by 1982 using two warheads to kill each missile, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown has said. This potential danger led to the MX program, in which 200 missiles, hidden in 4,600 shelters, would be certain to survive, with that certainty a deterrent to any first strike.

The critics doubt the scenario that the Soviets with 2,000 warheads can in fact destroy 87 percent to 90 percent of the 1,000 U.S. ICBM silos. They doubt Soviet reliability, and Soviet ability to have all 2,000 warheads arrive simultaneously over the 1,000 silos, as required.

They also doubt the necessary accuracy will be achieved because of gravitational and atmospheric anomalies over the 6,000-mile flight paths never before tested. And they contend that "fratricidal effects," in which a slightly premature blast of one nuclear warhead would destroy sister warheads before they can detonate, will reduce the overall effect.

Even if the U.S. ICBM force were totally destroyed, they point out, American B-52 bombers and missile firing submarines could devastate much of the Soviet population and industrial centers with retaliatory strikes. However, those weapons are less accurate and could not be used to respond with strikes against Soviet hard military targets, which an American president may choose to do if the Soviets hit only U.S. military targets.

The critics admit, however, that the Soviet threat to American land-based ICBMs is increasing. To cope with it, they would put new missiles in submarines rather than in the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada.

Dr. William J. Perry, director of research and engineering at the Pentagon, said that over 40 deployment systems were examined before the MX came was chosen. He specifically denied that submarines would be a cheaper alternative, and recommended land basing the

(CONT'D)



RJ 9-14-80



From Page 7D

warning systems, including satellites and ground-based radar; radio communications via space and through the ground; and other high technology equipment whose data are funneled through computers.

Some experimental sub-systems within the WWMCCS network have broken down 62 percent of the time during tests, a figure cited by defense critics as proof that the overall system won't work when

needed. Pentagon spokesmen denied the figure has any meaning, however, and claimed the average reliability of WWMCCS computers is over 96 percent.

"There's just no way you are going to do the job without computers," Defense Secretary Brown said in an interview. "You can't put 5,000 people with grease pencils in there to do the job by hand. Computers have failings like everything else, but it's not true they fail more than other things."

Besides computers, the military relies most heavily on satellites today.

Almost 70 percent of Pentagon and national security communications are routed through space. Satellites also provide photo and electronic surveillance, early warning of missile firing and nuclear blasts, navigation for ships, planes and missiles, and even weather reconnaissance, all of critical value to national security.

The Soviet Union has

developed an anti-satellite hunter-killer vehicle that can knock down spacecraft in orbits out to about 600 miles. At least two Soviet SS-11 ICBM's sit on launching pads at a base in Turyatam, ready year-round

for launching on anti-satellite missions, sources said.

In response to this "operational" capability, as Brown called it, the United States is developing an anti-satellite

weapon of greater flexibility. It will be carried under the wing of an F-15 fighter plane and rocketed into space. The weapon is more than a year away from flight tests, six years from full operational status, how-

ever.

Negotiations to ban anti-satellite weapons began two years ago but White House officials doubt any agreement is possible until the United States matches the Sovi-

et capability, if then. Meanwhile, scientists are experimenting with exotic, directed energy devices that would fire laser rays and particle beams at enemy missiles as well as satellites in the 1990s and later.

RJ 9-14-80

House defeats amendment to slow MX missile system

R-J Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — Opponents of the MX missile failed once again Tuesday to slow down the Carter administration's plan to deploy the weapons system.

By a 256-to-141 vote, an amendment was defeated by the House of Representatives that would have blocked spending on the controversial strategic missile until April 1, 1981.

The purpose of the measure, offered by Rep. Paul Simon, D-Ill., was to hold off further MX funding until three separate government studies on the system are completed.

As with other congressional attempts this year to derail the MX, support came mostly from liberal representatives who are opposed to the large outlay — \$100 billion by some counts — that ultimately would be required for deployment.

Rep. Jim Santini, D-Nev., voted for the Simon amendment. But his vote was not a reflection of opposition to the system. Rather, Santini said "it doesn't

make any sense" to pour money into the research and development of a basing mode when studies are pending.

"The money that's going to be spent could very well prove to be a total waste by February," said a Santini aide. "The amendment would have merely delayed the research and development until April 1, which didn't seem unreasonable."

Amendment foes, however, argued that a speedy development of the MX is necessary to counter Soviet advances in the arms race. The Defense Department has said that present land-based U.S. missiles could become vulnerable by the mid-1980s.

President Carter has said he will announce later this year specific sites — expected to be in Utah and Nevada — where the missiles are to be deployed.

Anticipating that decision, the Air Force has requested \$1.56 billion for fiscal 1981 to begin MX development. That figure was trimmed by \$120 million Tuesday in the House.

Nevertheless, the question of

how — and where — the missiles would be placed has not been resolved.

Although the Pentagon has stated a preference to align the 4,600 shelters along a linear strip in the Nevada-Utah Great Basin, a Santini aide noted that those plans could be jilted by federal studies.

The three pending government MX studies are:

— An environmental impact statement scheduled for release later this summer.

— A Pentagon study of split basing. The study is the result of an amendment by Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., that allows the government to construct the first 2,300 shelters in the Nevada-Utah desert but requires the Air Force to exhaust other potential sites before selecting the site for the second half of the system. The report is due in February.

— An Office of Technology Assessment study of alternate basing modes, including the possibility of deploying the missiles on submarines. The report is expected in February.

RJ 9-17-80

City seeks seat on MX committee

The Las Vegas City Commission on Wednesday unanimously asked for representation on two Southern Nevada planning committees in an effort to channel federal MX missile impact funds into the city.

The commission appointed Commissioner Paul Christensen to be the city's representative on the MX Local Oversight Committee, which presently includes only Nye and Lincoln county delegates as voting members.

The committee will receive \$1.5 million in federal impact funds in fiscal year 1981, and so far is the only local organization to receive such grants.

Clark County recently was given permission to become a voting member of the committee and invited Las Vegas officials to join them in representing local interests.

Commissioners also ordered participation in the newly formed Clark County Clearinghouse Council, which will review all grant applications for the federal government.

The council will take the place of the soon-to-be dissolved Regional Planning Council and will consist of elected officials from the county and each of its four city governments.

City Manager Russell Dorn recommended joining the council because numerous missile impact grants will be funneled through it.

"Participation in the council's activities will ensure city input into decisions that will directly affect growth and development," Dorn told the commissioners.

In other business, the commission:

—Approved a resolution asking the state for funds to determine how efficiently energy is used in city buildings.

The state Department of Energy has made \$70,000 available to all local governments to conduct such "energy audits."

—Unanimously refused to endorse the Las Vegas Valley Air Quality Implementation Plan because Clark County officials did not allow city governments to participate in developing the plan as required by the federal Clean Air Act.

Officials of Henderson, Boulder City and North Las Vegas already have endorsed the plan despite their lack of participation.

—Contributed \$3,700 toward a joint effort between the city, North Las Vegas and Clark County to educate owners of home water softeners in their proper use.

Residents who use more than 6 pounds of salt in softeners are polluting Lake Mead unnecessarily, officials said.

— earmarked \$50,000 toward further study of Lake Mead water quality through September as required by federal guidelines.

RJ 9-18-80

Senate OKs MX aid measure

R-J Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Communities located near the proposed MX missile system would receive \$5 million in fiscal 1981 to study the expected impact of the system under legislation passed Tuesday by the Senate.

By voice vote, the Senate approved \$2.5 million for Nevada, \$1.5 million for Utah and \$1 million for communities in other states should the Pentagon choose to spread the deployment of the 4,600 shelters into another region.

Nevada was given the bulk of the MX impact aid on the basis of current Air Force plans which call for 60 percent

constructed in the state.

The impact aid amendment, offered by Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., was tacked onto the Military Construction Authorization Bill. A parallel provision was added to an appropriations bill by Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev.

The House version of the bill also provided MX impact aid for states — but only \$1.5 million for Nevada. Differences between the House and Senate versions will be settled later this month in a conference between representatives of both houses.

Both bills take the impact aid funding out of the \$97 million earmarked for MX planning and design.

Cannon said the reason no impact aid was included in the bill at the committee level was disagreement over how much money should be given to Georgia communities to cushion the impact of a Trident submarine missile base planned for there. Senators finally settled on \$1 million for the submarine missile project.

The MX impact aid would be channeled through the Defense Department to cover the cost of studying the effect of the mammoth missile system on nearby desert towns. Nevada and Utah legislators, fearing that MX-created boom towns could strain existing schools, sewer

plants and housing facilities, have been exerting political pressure to obtain federal relief.

RJ 9-17-80

Domestic Steel To Be Used

MX Bill Gets Senate Approval

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate, on a voice vote, Wednesday approved an amendment to the military construction bill that would require shelters and bases for the proposed MX Missile system be constructed using only domestic steel.

The bill — for the 1981 fiscal year — now goes to a House-Senate conference committee where the Senate version containing the steel

amendment is expected to be approved.

The Air Force wants to build the giant missile complex in desert areas of Utah and Nevada. The steel amendment was proposed by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. Hatch said his amendment would help domestic steel producers and the nation's balance of payment problems.

Hatch said, "I have seen estimates that as much as 1 million metric tons of steel will go

into construction of the MX and its more than 4,000 shelters. This is, by any consideration, a large amount of steel. And it's my feeling that this should be American steel."

The Utah Republican also said in recent years the U.S. balance of payments "has fallen further and further into the red. One of the industries hardest hit by this influx of foreign products has been the American steel industry."

SUN 9-18-80

Hart Aims For MX Oversight Hearings

DENVER (UPI) — Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., says the West is at the "crossroads of industrialization" because of the impending simultaneous development of synthetic fuels and the MX missile system.

Hart, appearing in a joint news conference Sunday with Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm and Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler, said he would ask the Senate Armed Forces Committee Monday to authorize him to convene oversight hearings aimed at improving coordination of synthetics development and the MX construction.

Hart, chairman of the Armed Service's Committee's military construction subcommittee, said he expected quick approval for the hearings from the full committee. At the least, he said, one such proceeding should take place in Denver, with perhaps a second in Las Vegas because of the interest of Nevada Gov. Robert F. List.

He said the first proceeding probably would take place in October with the time and place to be announced.

"In the next decade, the West is going to experience two of the most massive industrial projects in our nation's history — projects which will change the West as we know it into one that we can now only barely imagine," Hart said. "The Western United States is at the crossroads of industrialization."

The request for "oversight" hearings came from the Western Governors Policy Office, chaired by Herschler, and was directed at both Hart and Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev. WESTPO met in Park City, Utah, Sept. 3-5 and adopted a resolution sponsored by List.

The purpose of the hearings, Hart explained, will be to compile a factual record on what kind of resources will be needed for the "monumental" projects.

SUN 9-22-80

MX missile complex should offer 'a high quality of life'

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Designers working on one of America's biggest boomtowns of the century — the MX missile city for 20,000 people — should remember a lesson learned from Los Alamos, N.M., birthplace of the atom bomb, says a site planner.

The military complex should offer "a high quality of life" rather than a "Buck Rogers 21st century concept," proposes Gerry Simon, project manager for one of three consulting firms hired by the Air Force to help design the MX Missile Community Plan.

A decision on the 3,000-acre desert location in Utah or Nevada is expected to be announced by the Air Force in the next several weeks.

Improving the social environment should be "a most important is-

sue," said Simon, senior vice president of the PRC Troups, a La Jolla, Calif.-based land planning and engineering entity for PRC.

"Bases constructed in remote and stark environment show a history of critical emotional problems," said Simon, citing Los Alamos' high rate of alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide and divorce.

To prevent a repeat, the new community, part of the \$33 billion MX package scheduled for completion by the mid-1980s, should place a high priority on a healthier social environment, he said.

That could be achieved by replacing traditional military camp towns by employing the latest ideas in community planning.

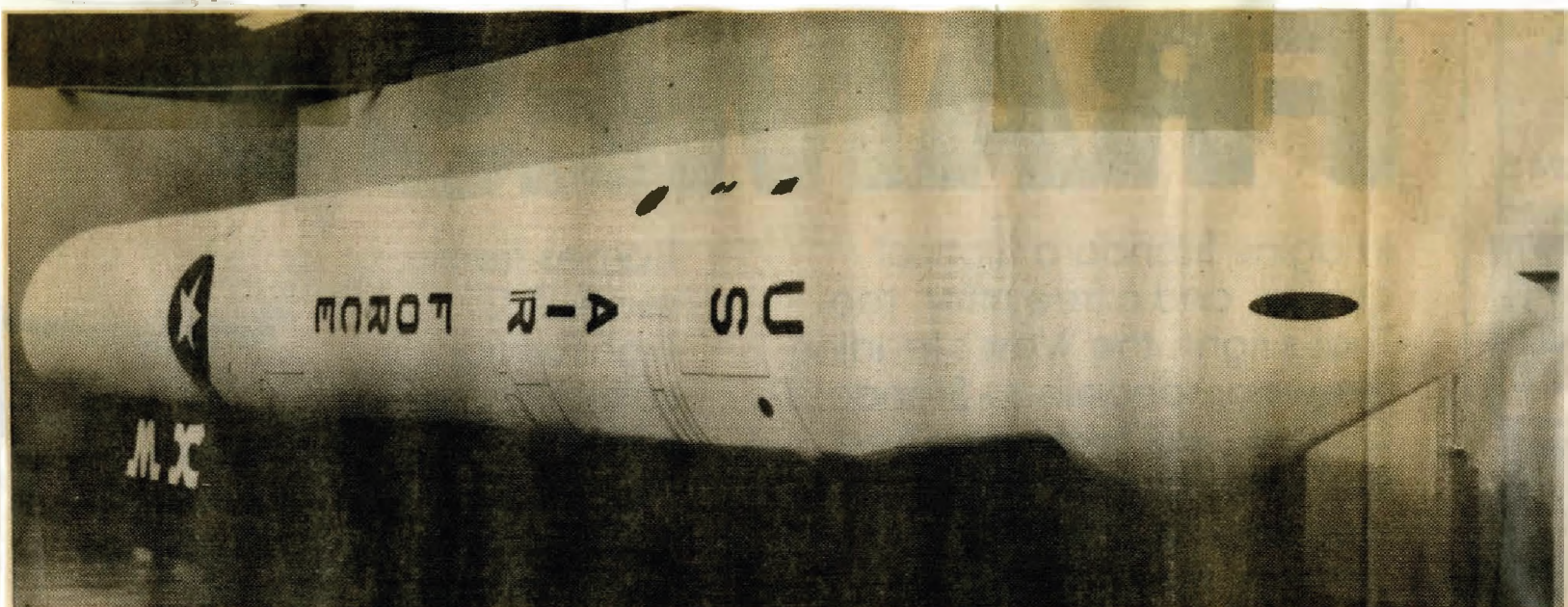
"The Air Force has indicated a true concern about the quality of life," Simon told the San Diego Building Contrac-

tors on Thursday night. "It's a good thing they are facing up to the problema of attracting and retaining high qual-

ity professional personnel."

His firm's proposal calls for a mass transit system.

RD 9-19-80



IT COULD EXPLODE - Air Force officials say the MX missile could explode inside its concrete shelters which may be built in the Nevada desert. However,

since the MX uses mainly solid fuel, an explosion like one which rocked a Titan missile silo in Arkansas is unlikely.

Missile nightmare could occur here

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

An explosion like the one which shattered a Titan II nuclear weapon silo in Arkansas also could occur in the concrete MX missile shelters which may be built in Nevada, an Air Force officer said Monday.

"If the fuel in the MX were to catch fire, then there is a possibility of an explosion," Lt. Col. Neil Buttmer said.

Chances of an Arkansas-like explosion happening in the central Nevada desert are remote, he added. Unlike the liquid-fuel powered Titan, the MX predominately uses

a solid base fuel for propulsion, said Buttmer, a spokesman in the Ballistic Missile Office at Norton Air Force Base, Calif.

However, the 190,000-pound MX missile, capable of carrying 10 nuclear warheads, will carry 1,000 pounds of liquid fuel in its fourth stage.

See R-J Viewpoint, Page 2B

The Titan II exploded last Friday, eight hours after a workman dropped a socket wrench 70 feet on to the 103-foot-long missile. The wrench ruptured the aluminum

alloy wall of the Titan and allowed gas to escape. An Air Force sergeant and 21 airmen were injured in the explosion.

"If somebody drops a wrench on the MX missile, it won't do anything," said Maj. Dick Bras, a Pentagon spokesman.

The shell around the MX will be made of stainless steel, creating a rigid surface which is capable of moving from shelter to shelter. The Titan missile, however, receives its send-off when the fuel combines with an oxidizer.

**See MX,
Page 5A**

MX

From Page 1A.

"The fuel in the Titan is an old technology," Bras added. "That's what caused a lot of the problem."

In the wake of the Arkansas explosion, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown maintained again that building the MX is a necessity. He used a Sunday television news conference to point out the Titan will be 25-years-old by the time the MX goes into operation in 1986. The Titan was designed to last 10 years, Brown said.

The Pentagon wants to move 200 MX missiles among 4,600 concrete shelters in the Nevada-Utah Great Basin.

The missile may carry 10 warheads, each capable of being independently targeted to a site in the Soviet Union or elsewhere.

Under pressure from MX opponents in the Great Basin, the Air Force has agreed to study the effects of locating some of the missiles in New Mexico and Texas. That report, however, has been delayed twice and may not be released until mid-October.

"One reason we want the MX in Nevada is because it can be put away from inhabited structures," Buttner added. "From a nuclear emissions viewpoint, it would

be the best location."

The Air Force has refused to confirm whether a 24-megaton nuclear warhead was blown out of the Arkansas silo during last Friday's explosion. The force of this warhead is 1,200 times the power of the bomb the United States dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Buttner refused to give the megaton force of the MX warheads, saying such information is "classified."

The Titan was developed when liquid fuel technology was at its peak, he said. Since then, the Air Force has switched to solid-state

fuel propulsion on its Minuteman missiles.

The three booster stages of the MX will use solid-state fuel which feels something like a "pencil eraser," Bras said. The fourth stage — the one carrying 10 independently ma-

neuverable nuclear warheads — uses liquid fuel because it permits speed changes in order to zero in on targets.

Like the Titan, the MX can travel at speeds of 18,000 mph and hit targets 6,000 miles away inside the Soviet Union.

RJ

9.23.1980

MX boon to Nevada businesses

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Nevada businesses have received \$12.2 million worth of subcontracts to build parts for the MX missile system, according to a report released by the Air Force.

The largest subcontract went to Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Co., the firm which now supplies most of the labor force at the Nevada Test Site. REECo received \$6.5 million to develop concrete shelters which will house the MX missiles.

An experimental shelter already has been built at the Test Site. Experiments on the hardened shelters are being conducted in a building which served as headquarters for

nuclear rocket developments during the 1960s.

"The \$6.5 million is a ballpark figure," said Steve Leon, a REECo spokesman. "With inflation, it could go between \$10 and \$13 million."

The second largest subcontract went to a Henderson company whose vice president, Jim Gibson, is one of Nevada's most powerful state senators.

However, Fred Gibson, the senator's brother and president of Pacific Engineering and Production Co., denied his firm received any special consideration in receiving a \$1.5 million contract to produce ammonium perchlorate.

"We are one of only two companies in the country which produce ammonium perchlorate," Gibson said. "It doesn't matter where the missiles go. Pacific Engineering is going to supply it."

The other company which produces ammonium perchlorate is Kerr-McGee, another Henderson-based firm. Kerr-McGee received the third largest contract, \$1 million, to produce the substance for the MX.

Ammonium perchlorate is an oxidizer which sets off the propellant portion of the MX missile. The substance is the largest element in the missile in terms of weight.

See MX,
Page 7A

RJ 9-24-80

From Page 1A

Pacific Engineering has produced ammonium perchlorate for the Minuteman and Polaris missiles, Gibson said. The company also makes the same fuel component for America's upcoming space shuttle.

"In terms of dollars, the space shuttle will bring four or five times to us what the MX does," he added.

Gibson disputed the \$1.5 million contract figure the Air Force says his company will receive.

"We have added our contracts together and we don't get anything near \$1.5 million," he added.

In his spare time, Fred Gibson serves as president of the Nevada Development Authority, a Southern Nevada business organization which has been a strong supporter of the \$56 billion MX missile system. The organization recently urged Air Force undersecretary Antonia Chayes to put the main operating base of the MX close to the Las Vegas area. Chayes delivered the main address during the Development Authority's annual banquet.

"I believe the chances of Nevada getting the main base are good," said Don Gray, a Martin Marietta official who is acting as a coordinator for 11 major corporations that hold prime MX contracts.

Martin Marietta has a five-year, \$377.1 million contract to assemble the

MX from parts produced by other contractors. The Denver-based company opened an office on Charleston Boulevard in July.

"Not a whole lot has

happened since then," Gray said. "We are still in the planning stage."

Other major MX contractors are Thiokol Corp., Aerojet General Corp., Hercules Inc. and

Rockwell International Corp. These contractors will build the four stages of the missile. They, in turn, have been subcontracting some work to Nevada firms.

25 9.24.1980

Air Force Briefs Utahns On MX Missile Base Site

CEDAR CITY, Utah (UPI) — The Air Force Wednesday briefed Utahns on plans for an expandible MX missile base capable of housing up to 17,000 people.

The Strategic Air Command presented blueprints for a desert base to a meeting of the MX Intergovernmental Working Group in Cedar City. If the entire MX missile system is deployed in the desert valleys of Utah and Nevada, two such bases would be built — one in each state.

Lt. Col. Dwayne Piepenburg of SAC said the proposed base would have three housing areas surrounding an open recreation space. The housing areas would adjoin a work complex and an airfield.

The housing areas would be divided into three distinct communities which would each house 5,000 to 6,000 people. Each community would have its own convenience food shops, an elementary school, a church, playgrounds and community center.

Piepenburg said the housing areas could be built separately, allowing for gradual construction and expansion of the base. He added all the facilities at the proposed base would be located within easy walking distance.

The base, including runways and clear zones for aircraft, would cover a total of 4,000

to 4,500 acres. Housing areas would occupy about 3,000 acres of the total.

The housing communities would offer a variety of options — townhouses, duplexes and other multi-unit buildings, and single-family homes.

Three consulting firms submitted base plans to the Air Force. Piepenburg said all three were similar. Each called for use of the latest energy-saving technology.

Capt. Don Meister, also of SAC, said the Air Force did not intend to provide housing for all the personnel needed to support the missile system, but plans must be drawn up for that possibility.

The captain said the Air Force would welcome nearby housing built by private developers.

The MX missile system would have 200 multi-warhead missiles hidden among 4,600 shelters built in a grid system across the desert. The entire system would cover about 45,000 square miles of land, although most of the area would remain open to public access. Only 2.5 acres around each missile shelter would be fenced.

Two support bases are needed for the system. The Air Force is studying locations near Beryl, Milford and Delta in Utah and near Las Vegas and Ely, Nev.

Sun 9.25.1980

MX subcontracts

SUB/VENDOR	DOLLAR AMOUNT	SUPPLIES/SERVICES	PERIOD
Viking Metalgel	\$ 60,091	Throat Support Rings	Sept.79
Pacific Engineering	299,900	Ammonium Perchlorate	March80
Kerr-McGee	1,000,000	Ammonium Perchlorate	1980-1984
Pacific Engineering	1,500,000	Ammonium Perchlorate	1980-1984
University of Nevada	1,414	Archeological Data	Jan.79
Environmental Consultants Inc.	55,247	Aquatic Biology	June80
Facilitators	345,000	Native American Studies	May-Sept.80
NRC, Inc.	69,203	Transportation Corridor Study	June80
Westec Services	101,000	Habitat Inventory	May-Sept80
Nevada Airlines	211,628	Transportation to ETB	May79-Aug80
A.G. Spanos Corp	210,127	Housing & Associated Costs	May79-Aug80
Utilities	13,757	Utilities For Housing	May79-Aug80
Miscellaneous Admin	26,015	Expendables	May79-Aug80
Las Vegas, Tonopah, Reno Stage Line	8,190	Bus Service	June 80
Desert Research Inst.	100,000	Paralegal, Municipal & Industry Activity Water Resources Study	Sept.79-Sept.80
Nevada Testing Lab	18,000	Aggregate Sample Testing	Sept.79-Sept.80
Met-Chem Engr Labs	50,000	Aggregate Sample Testing	Dec.78-Sept.80
Golden State Backhoe	60,000	Backhoe Services	Nov.79-Sept.80
Hydro-Search, Inc.	180,000	Field Support Drilling Operations	July 80-Sept.80
Century Geophysical Corp.	23,500	Geophysical Logging of Wells	July80-Sept.80
Pearson Bros. Construct	10,000	CBR Field Tests	June80-Aug.80
Comstock Copiers	16,000	Support Flying Services for Topographic Field Survey Crews	Dec.79
Brauntingharn Exploration Svcs	100,000	Observation Wells	Apr.80-Sept.80
Fred Ketten	4,000	Field Rental Equipment	March 79-Aug.80
Jerry Ambrose	1,500	Field Casual Labor	Oct.79-Sept.80
Nevada Airlines	20,000	Aircraft Charter Services	Jan.79-Oct.79
Oasis Aviation	000	Helicopters for Survey	Sept.77-Oct.7
Flippen Trenching	7,500	Trenching Services	Aug.77-Aug.78
Desert Research Ins.	3,500	Archeological Clearance Studies	July 77
Nevada Industrial Comp	8,600	Rental Equipment	Aug.77-Aug 78
Cline Trucking	3,150	Hauling Explosives	July77-Aug. 78
Birdwell Division	25,000	Geophysical Logging	Feb.77-Feb.78
Wilkin Mining & Trucking	6,000	Water Truck	Aug.77-Sept.77
F.W. Gentry & Assoc. Inc.	5,000	Water Rights Surveying	June80-July80
NAFCO Ind.	1,593	Press Insert	March 80
Bee Hive Int	6,780	Computer Terminal	Jan.80
Kerr McGee Chem	10,308	Ammonium Perchlorate	May80
Physics Internatioanl	354,000	Studies	May 80
Reeco	6,426,700	Construction Energy Test Bed	As of 30 June 80
Fenix & Scisson	50,700	A&E Energy Test Bed	As of 30 June 80
Holmes & Narver	701,000	A&E Energy Test Bed	As of 30 June 80
Wackenhut	62,000	Security Energy Test Bed	As of 30 June 80
Pan Am	1,000	Photographic Services	As of 30 June 80
Reeco	1,428	Data Channel Rental	July 78-Sept.78
Precision Rolled Prod.	100,000	Roll Titanium Raw Stock	May-Aug.80
Nevada Safety & Supply	4,999	Safety Equipment	June 80-Aug.80
Respiratory Specialists	1,600	Resuscitators	June 80-Aug. 80
2 Vendors	1,049	Safety Equipment	June 80-Aug.80
RANGE	FROM 1 JULY NEW	TOTAL	FROM 1 JULY NEW TOTAL \$
Over 1 Mile		3	\$ 554,700 \$ 8,926,700
1 Mile-100K	2	11	703,226 2,702,655
100K-10K	2	13	57,142 523,683
10K-1K	4	19	24,789 88,602
UNDER 1K	2	23	1,049 21,039
STATE TOTAL	10	69	\$ 1,340,906 \$12,262,679

Includes new contracts/subcontracts and increased dollars on existing contracts/subcontracts

RJ 9-24-80

MX Documentary Scheduled

A documentary on the proposed MX missile system recently videotaped by a UNLV assistant physics professor is set to air on KLVX-TV, Channel 10, Oct. 5 at 10 p.m.

Russ McNeil is narrator and producer of the hour-long "Battleborn — MX in Nevada," a program that was funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Nevada Humanities Committee.

The documentary looks at the multi-billion-dollar MX system in

the social and political context of other large federal projects in Nevada, such as Hoover Dam.

McNeil spent five months traveling around the state interviewing ranchers, townspeople, Indians and military personnel, and completed the interviews in September.

The piece is "very pro-Nevada, but is reasonably balanced," McNeil said, noting, "The sentiment out in the counties where it would be built is basically not favorable to

the project, though some people want it."

He explained that many of the comments — particularly those expressed by Indians — are based on emotion.

"In fact, several longtime Nevadans who have seen previews of the show left with very emotional feelings," McNeil said.

The show will first be shown during a physics seminar Oct. 3 at 3:30 p.m. in UNLV's Chemistry Building, Room 101.

SUN 9-25-80

~~SECRET~~

College studying possible impact of MX

By Rebecca Kuzins
R-J Staff Writer

The MX missile system could bring an influx of prospective college students to Nevada, a development that is being carefully monitored by administrators of Clark County Community College.

The college will sponsor a forum at 7 p.m. Oct. 7 on the MX's implications for education in Southern Nevada. The program will feature Lt. Col. Warren Hickman, chief of MX system basing at Norton Air Force Base in California, Assemblyman Tom Hickey, D-North Las Vegas, and J. O. Bowlus, chairman of the MX committee of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

David Hoggard Jr., director of the division of science and technology at the community college, also will join in the discussion, which will take place in the lobby of the school's main campus, 3200 East Cheyenne Ave.

Dale Johnston, administrative assistant to the college president, emphasized the forum will not be a debate on the merits of MX but will offer an opportunity to discuss the project's impact upon higher education in Nevada.

"If the project comes, we want to know what the fallout will be in terms of education," Johnston said. "The effects of the project could be profound and we have to gear up for it."

Johnston, Hoggard and other college officials now can only hazard guesses about MX. They still are uncertain if and when the multi-billion-dollar construction project will get under way, how large an influx of people it will bring to Clark County and the more rural areas of Nevada and how much federal money would be available for the college to expand its classes and facilities.

"The U.S. Air Force has been non-committal about the future of the project because there probably won't be any definite decision about it until after the November election," Johnston said.

"At this point, we're not even sure where the base camp is going to be," Hoggard said. "It could be located 50 or 60 miles from the Nevada Test Site and if it's that close, then the project will have a direct impact upon the community college."

Part of that impact, he added, would be for the college to expand for people who will be working on. This could include classes in

In addition to the technical courses, Johnston said the project could cause an increased demand for academic programs and leisure time activities, such as pottery and weaving.

"I've talked to Air Force people and they said there will be roughly three phases of the missile project," Johnston said. "First would be the construction phase, which could last from 1982 until 1984. Then there would be a second phase when communications hardware will be installed, which could last from about 1984 to 1986. And then there will be the operational phase, from 1986 through 1989."

"Each distinct phase will bring a different number of people to the state and will create different educational needs for workers," he said.

Depending upon the location of the missile project, MX could cause the population of Lincoln and Nye counties and other rural areas of Nevada to dramatically increase. The community college already is offering courses at high schools and other facilities in Tonopah, Goldfield, Pahrump, Panaca,

Caliente, Beatty and several other rural communities.

Johnston said the college could continue to offer courses in these locations to meet the demands created by MX but eventually might have to purchase portable classroom space to accommodate the new programs.

The missile project also will create a need for additional university courses, according to Dwight Marshall, dean of continuing education at UNLV.

"We haven't had any forums here but in my personal opinion, as a person who has been in the aerospace industry, the project will have an impact on UNLV by increasing enrollment in Las Vegas and the outlying communities. We will have to better serve these communities," said Marshall,

chairman of the university's MX committee.

He added he is requesting between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in UNLV's budget for the 1981-83 biennium to hire an MX coordinator. That person would work to expand and improve university facilities in the areas most affected by the missile project.

"I'm not sure just where we'll put that person," Marshall said, "and I don't think we'll need him or her until about two years downstream from now."

MX is having a more immediate impact on the university, Marshall explained, because between 20 and 40 university faculty members are working with state officials to conduct an environmental impact statement for the missile project. The faculty members include scientists, engineers and other researchers.

Funds for MX study approved

R-J Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — House-Senate conferees approved legislation Tuesday that clears the way for Nevada to receive the bulk of \$5 million to study local impact of the MX missile system.

Under terms of the military construction authorization bill, conferees agreed Nevada would receive \$12.5 million to study the potential impact of the MX. Utah would receive \$1.5 million

and an additional \$1 million would be used in the event the government spreads the system into other regions.

The package follows the lead of the Senate plan, which Nevada Sens. Howard Cannon and Paul Laxalt amended to sanction studies of ways for desert communities to absorb the effects of the massive system.

The impact aid funding will come out of \$97 million earmarked for MX planning and de-

sign.

In accepting the Senate version, the conferees embraced the reasoning that Nevada should receive the majority of the impact money because roughly 60 percent of the shelters, under current plans, would be put in the state.

A military construction bill passed by the House would have provided only \$1.5 million for Nevada, \$1.5 million for Utah and no money for split-basing.

RT 9.25.1980

Wildlife Boss Tells Of MX Threat

"Nevada residents will be faced with severe losses of outdoor recreation opportunities if the proposed MX missile system is deployed in our state," said Joe Greenley, Department of Wildlife director.

"Many of Nevada's wildlife resources are limited and are not capable of meeting the present demand, much less the future demand of an additional 100,000 or more newcomers," Greenley said.

"Take the mule deer for example. Under Nevada's total quota hunting system, the 1980 demand for resident general deer hunt tags was 29,681, but only 19,799 were available. Stated another way, only approximately 66 percent of the people who applied for tags will be able to hunt this year," he said. "According to Environmental Protection Agency estimates, the MX missile project will bring more than 40,000 people into our state if it is approved. If only one-fourth of these persons decide to apply for a deer tag, after they meet the six-month residency requirement, the number of applications will more than double and an individual will only have a 30 percent chance of drawing a tag.

"The majority of these people will be living and working in the heartland of rural Nevada," Greenley continued, "and will be looking to our wildlife resources as a significant part of their outdoor recreation. It is reasonable to assume that illegal wildlife activities will increase and that some damage

to fragile wildlife habitat will occur from additional off-road vehicles use, but these problems can be faced if the U.S. Air Force contributes enough money for the necessary law enforcement effort. What can you do for the deer hunter who will be denied the privilege of hunting deer two out of every three years.

Greenley said, however, MX is not the only source the population boom.

"Unfortunately MX is not the only source of potential

accelerated population increase in Nevada. Our state is experiencing a major surge in mining activity as well as an expansion in exploration of oil, gas and thermal power resources," he explained. "Add to this the growing popularity of Nevada for retirees and others seeking a more temperate climate and you have a situation that can only lead to almost unlimited population growth.

"Department of Wildlife

has little choice but to accept these circumstances as a challenge, and, with cooperation of all of the state's citizens, develop plans and institute management and habitat restoration programs to protect the resource and yet meet the future demands for outdoor recreation," he said.

SUN 9-26-80

MX Water Aid Urged

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Mary Gojack has suggested that other states share the burden of the MX missile project by exporting water to Nevada to replenish the state's dwindling supply.

After a two-hour meeting with Air Force officials at the Pentagon last week, Gojack said her "chief concern was the need for great amounts of water in areas of Nevada that have already reached their

capacity for water usage."

Gojack added, "Nevada isn't abundant in water like the Pacific Northwest or the East. Nevadans have fought and died over small pools of water. They are not about to give up their water supplies and further growth of their towns to house the nation's defense system if other states won't chip in."

The former state senator said without water imports

"each town near the MX sites will be contained in their growth by the water supplies. Nevada is growing rapidly and should not be held back by the government's soaking up of our precious water supply."

During the briefing, Air Force officials spelled out their plans for bringing MX to Nevada and proposals for land use, security measures, safety features and water usage, she said.

SUN 9-30-80

Agriculture Unit Eyes MX Effects

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — The Utah MX Missile Coordinator's office has selected a committee of persons involved in agriculture to review the MX draft environmental impact statement and effects the giant missile complex would have on farming and ranching in the state.

Dr. Kenneth Creer, Utah Agriculture Department commissioner, Monday was named as chairman of the 10-member study committee.

Creer said, "We feel this committee will be able to identify and review important impact and mitigation issues that should be addressed by the impact statement."

The Utah committee is one of three in the state created so far to study the draft environmental impact statement.

SUN 10-1-80

Go-Ahead Expected

MX Missile Officer NLV Goal

NORTH LAS VEGAS — The city council is expected Wednesday to give City Manager Ray Schweitzer the go-ahead to hire a city MX Missile coordinator.

The action will be taken at the council's 7 p.m. meeting, at city hall, 2200 Civic Center Drive.

Schweitzer is seeking permission to hire an adminis-

trative assistant who will work directly with MX contractors, the Air Force and other agencies to help the city reap the expected benefits of the MX system.

Las Vegas and Clark County have designated their own MX coordinators. Schweitzer said the massive defense project demands full-time attention, which the city

staff is unable to give.

The coordinator will determine the expected impact of MX before, during and after construction. In addition, the coordinator will be expected to work directly with major MX contractors, try to attract MX firms to North Las Vegas and help guide them through the city

bureaucracy if they do locate in the city.

The coordinator will also work on such non-MX projects as the planned "Expo '85" world's fair.

If the position is approved, the city will seek applicants from throughout the western United States, Schweitzer said. Schweitzer

first offered the job to city planner Matt Beckstedt, but Beckstedt has accepted a position in the Clark County Comprehensive Planning Department instead.

In other action, the council will be asked:

- To select a project to be built with the city's \$1 million, in funds from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's recreational facilities bond project.

- To pave part of the grassy park behind the municipal court building to accommodate parking for the new justice court, nearing completion next to the Public Safety Building. Judge James Kelly, who will move into the new courtroom, submitted the request.

504 10-1-80

Gojack wants water aid if MX is built

U.S. Senate candidate Mary Gojack has called for other states to contribute to Nevada water supplies if the MX missile system is built in the state.

Gojack said in a news release she told Pentagon officials during a recent trip to Washington, D.C. that the MX could deplete Nevada water resources and suggested other states give water to Nevada so enough water will remain available.

"Nevada isn't abundant in water like the Pacific Northwest or the East," she said. "Nevadans have fought and died over small pools of water and they are not about to give up their water supplies and further growth of their towns to house the nation's defense system if other states won't chip in."

Gojack said she was worried about possible depletion of water in valleys already drained to capacity and the possibility that the Air Force will be given preference over homesteaders who already have applications for water pending.

"The building of the MX, the cement needed, and the estimated 140,000 people swarming into MX areas, will take hundreds of acreage of water, much of which isn't available now to existing communities."

Gojack made her comments following a four-day swing through Washington and New York where she attended a fund-raiser hosted by Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon and Congressman James Santini and met with Democratic leaders.

RJ 9-30-80

Air Force charged with MX whitewash

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

The Air Force has forced a Santa Barbara, Calif., consulting firm to whitewash the still unreleased study of the environmental effects of the MX missile system, several former employees of the firm have charged.

"It's simply a way to make the Air Force preferred deployment plan look good," one employee, sociologist Larry Buffington, said about the environmental impact statement.

The Henningson, Durham and Richardson firm has engaged in "sweetheart contracting" for the Air Force, said Buffington, who quit his job last summer. He made his comments in a story published Thursday in the Santa Barbara News and Review, a weekly newspaper.

Another unnamed HDR official said the impact report will be "window dressing for the Air Force decision to locate the system in the Great Basin."

The Air Force has maintained the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah is the best place to put the

\$79 billion missile system. Opposition in these states, however, resulted in a congressional decision to require the Air Force to consider the impact of putting half of the 200 missile system in Texas and New Mexico.

HDR Project Manager Bob Van Tassell told the Review-Journal allegations raised by Buffington and Michael Perone, a laid-off biologist, were incorrect.

"These are former employees, not long-term employees, but ones we felt didn't understand you couldn't spend 20 years studying something," Van Tassell said. "You had to use the information you had and come to conclusions with that information."

He added the environmental study, originally scheduled for release on July 18, will not be ready until the end of the year. President Carter had been scheduled to pick where the MX system would be built in December. The Van Tassell statement means at least a three-month de-

lay in starting the system, since the Air Force has agreed to a 90-day public comment period after release of the report.

The Air Force hopes to have 10 missiles ready by 1986 and to complete the system by 1989. By periodically moving the missiles among 4,600 concrete shelters, the American military thinks the Soviet Union will be dissuaded from ever attempting a nuclear attack on the United States. Military leaders feel the United States always could return a nuclear attack since too much of the MX would remain even after a full-force Soviet strike.

The Santa Barbara newspaper quoted several unidentified current employees who said reports they prepared have been edited by management and the Air Force. The biology staff was restricted from conducting adequate field studies and presenting alternatives, Perone said.

"We anticipate what the Air Force wants," Buffington added. "There was too much client control over the project."

An unidentified scientist was quoted as saying his portion of the study has changed to omit "a reference to the level of impact" of the MX.

The firm's officials have told employees they could lose their jobs if they talk to outside sources, the newspaper reported.

Yet, Van Tassell said the firm has been working "with a great deal of freedom" from the Air Force.

Revisions were made only because Air Force staff members found errors, he added.

"Pieces of the project changed," Van Tassell said. "The Air Force wanted more up-to-date information."

New field studies were conducted at the Air Force's request, Van Tassell added.

He said about 200 people are working on the MX report. The MX project has been called the biggest construction project ever attempted by mankind. More than 100,000 employees and their dependents may be needed to build the system.

RJ 10-9-80

Air Force: Split-basing for MX out

CARSON CITY (AP) — Top Pentagon officials say the MX missile system is likely to be built in Nevada and Utah as originally planned — not split in half and located partly outside the two states.

The "split-basing" plan now being studied by the Air Force would raise the cost of the system by as much as \$3 billion without creating any significant benefits, the officials say.

"My guess is it will not happen," said Lt. Gen. Kelly Burke. "But," he added, "if we're told to do it, we will."

Burke added that splitting the system "would probably not mitigate the impacts all that much in Nevada and Utah."

"If you were a congressman," asked another high-ranking Pentagon official, "would you vote to spend \$3 billion to split up MX?"

"Three billion dollars buys a lot of defense," he added.

The decision on whether to split the missile system will be made by Congress sometime next year. Congress ordered the military to study the split-basing concept, but said the conclusions of the study will not necessarily be binding.

MX exhibit open to public

The Air Force's walk-through exhibit on the MX missile system will be parked this weekend at the College Park Shopping Center in the 2400 block of East Lake Mead Boulevard in North Las Vegas.

The free exhibit will be open to the public between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday through Monday.

Officers will assist visitors through the exhibit and answer questions about the MX.

RJ 10-10-80

List: Doubts of Pentagon no surprise

RENO (AP) — Gov. Robert List on Thursday said he was not surprised to hear top Pentagon officials expect the MX missile system to be built solely in Nevada and Utah and not parceled out to other states.

"They're trying to do their job," the governor said of the military officials, who recently voiced doubts about a "split-basing" plan for the MX, which would put half the missile system in states other than Utah or Nevada. "I understand where they're coming from."

List at a Reno news conference, called primarily to discuss his opposition to Question 6, said splitting the MX system "presents a number of difficulties" financially, and he does not expect the military to support it.

Asked if he expected a change in MX plans if Ronald Reagan is elected President, List, a Republican, said, "I would not expect the problems would be any less for Nevada if the Republicans won the White House."

However, he said he had not discussed the subject with Reagan.

Referring to the MX, List said, "I just wish they could put it somewhere else, and I wish they would. However, I recognize it's not my decision."

Air Force denies MX whitewash

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Air Force spokesmen Thursday denied charges they have whitewashed a still-unreleased study on the effects of the MX missile system.

Employees working on the study claim the Air Force wants only to justify building the missile system in the Great Basin lands of Central Nevada and Western Utah.

"We categorically deny we have been whitewashing anything," said Lt. Col. Mike Terrell, an Air Force staff officer at the Pentagon.

Terrell said there was no truth to the statements made by employees of the Santa Barbara consulting firm that is preparing the Air Force's environmental study on the effects of the \$79 billion MX missile system.

These employees claimed the Henningson, Durham and Richardson firm has engaged in "sweetheart contracting" for the Air Force.

Former HDR sociologist Larry Buffington indicated the report was designed "to make the Air Force deployment plan look good."

An unnamed HDR employee claimed the final report will be "window dressing for the Air Force decision to locate the system in the Great Basin."

Their comments were published Thursday in the weekly

Santa Barbara, Calif., News and Review.

Buffington resigned his job in July, complaining he was stopped from researching the impact the MX will have on the small communities of Nevada-Utah.

He only could spend three days at a Bureau of Land Management field office in Nevada,

Buffington said.

HDR Project Manager Bob Van Tassell also denied the charges made by Buffington and other employees.

"These are former employees, not long-term employees, but ones we felt didn't understand you couldn't spend 20 years studying something," he added.

"You had to use the information you had and come to conclusions with that information,"

Van Tassell said.

The \$17 million HDR environmental study is designed to gauge the MX effects on possible site locations in Nevada, Utah, Texas and New Mexico.

About 100,000 workers and their dependents may be drawn to the MX construction area.

The missile system has been billed as the largest construction

project ever undertaken by man.

The Air Force has maintained its preference to put the entire project in the Great Basin.

"The report has nothing to do with achieving our goal to put the MX in the Great Basin," Terrell said. "We have been taking our time to get all the data we can. We want data which will withstand the scrutiny of the public, agencies and decision makers."

The Air Force's concern for adequate data has resulted in a long delay in the release of the report, Terrell added.

The HDR study originally was scheduled for a July 18 release, but will not be ready until the end of the year.

Because of the delay, the president will not decide where the MX will be built until next April, Terrell said. President Carter was scheduled to pick MX sites in December.

The water rights in 22 Nevada and seven Utah valleys already have been sought by the Air Force.

State Water Engineer Bill Newman said 90 of the 95 applications for Nevada water will be returned to the Air Force because of mistakes.

The Pentagon wants to have 10 missiles ready for use by 1986, and to complete the 200-missile system by 1989.

MX mineral impact study set

CARSON CITY (AP) — The U.S. Air Force has made its first direct effort to resolve the concerns of the mining industry over the effect deployment of the sprawling MX missile system might have on Nevada mineral deposits.

The Air Force will conduct a phased mineral study in Dry Lake Valley in Lincoln County, currently earmarked as the first missile installation site.

Laxalt wants MX in Minuteman holes

ELY (AP) — U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt says he hopes the proposed MX missile system will not end up in Nevadans' "backyards" and will instead be incorporated into the existing Minuteman missile system.

Laxalt, on a rural Nevada campaign swing, said obstacles

The Air Force has agreed not to build any of its 4,600 missile shelters over any significant mineral deposits, but miners are not satisfied with the military's methods for determining where those deposits might be.

Mining interests want full-blown exploration, including expensive drilling. The Air Force prefers to select areas for review on the basis of existing data.

The Air Force still does not

to MX include many remaining questions from Congress, the outcome of the presidential election, and concern over Air Force compliance with public land withdrawal laws.

He also said Nevada and Utah have made "major progress" toward safeguarding their interests

promise to do any drilling, but will take core samples and has agreed to add two geological teams to its current surveying operation in Dry Lake Valley. The original survey crew included biologists and archaeologists, but no geologists.

Results of the Dry Lake study will be studied to determine the extent of mineral research needed in the other 29 Nevada valleys where the MX is scheduled to be built.

should MX be located in the two states. MX construction, he added, would be "both a boon and a burden" here.

"There is no question but that the quality of life will be damaged in many rural areas," he said.

RS 10.10.1980

Air Force conducts MX exhibit

Those who wandered past the College Park Shopping Center in North Las Vegas on Sunday would have spotted a curious sight.

Two uniformed Air Force sergeants conducted tours through a bomb-shaped exhibit which told of America's need for the \$79 billion MX missile system. After walking through the Air Force exhibit, however, everyone was staring directly at a battered pickup truck where two young men were passing out anti-MX literature.

"The truck the Air Force is using cost millions. We operate on a \$250 budget," said Steve Rohl, a spokesman for the No MX organization in Las Vegas.

Rohl estimated half of the 400 or so persons who walked through the Air Force's MX display then decided to stop at his anti-MX table.

"They have a perfect right to do what they are doing," Sgt. Mike Cundiff said. "There's no friction between us."

Anti-MX groups set up booths at about half the places where the Air Force stops with its MX

exhibit, he added.

The opposing sides could square off again Monday — but only if Rohl can find someone to substitute while he is at work. The Air Force plans to keep its exhibit open between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the shopping center at the 2400 block of East Lake Mead Boulevard.

The walk-through exhibit is built inside the shell of a Titan missile, one of the missiles the Air Force no longer be-

lieves can withstand a major Soviet attack.

The Soviets have outspent the United States 2 to 1 for strategic weapons in recent years, reads a passage written on the exhibit wall. Such spending has given the Soviets the power to destroy most of the Titan missiles in a massive attack, the Air Force indicated.

"It is crucial that our strategic nuclear forces not be vulnerable to a pre-emptive Soviet at-

tack," reads a quotation from President Carter. "The MX missile is our optimum means of meeting this vital goal."

The Air Force hopes

to complete the 200-missile system by 1989. The Pentagon plans to construct the system in the middle of the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah.

RJ 10-13-80

MX Builder To Speak In Henderson

HENDERSON — Leo Soucek, Nevada MX resident manager of Martin Marietta Contractors, will speak at a membership luncheon of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce Thursday in Nick's Supper club.

Martin Marietta is slated to be the prime contractor for the MX project. The industrial aspect of MX has already touched Henderson through the GTE Sylvania lithium battery facility that is presently under construction. Pacific Engineering and Production co., and Kerr-McGee Chemicals may also be involved in the MX project with

their production of ammonium perchlorate, the chemical used in solid rocket fuels.

The program speaker will be introduced by Glen Taylor, president of the Association of Henderson Industrial Trades. Those wishing to attend the luncheon should make reservations by calling the Chamber of Commerce.

New members to the Chamber of Commerce are Vegas Paints, Kwik Kopy Printing and Donrey Outdoor advertising, all sponsored by Gary Johnson, director of the Chamber.

SUN 10-15-80

MX project:

**Survey crews
begin work
in the desert**



By Ed Vogel

R-J Staff Writer

CALIENTE — Dry Lake Valley is the kind of place where Hollywood would stage a Western movie.

Cattle graze peacefully under expansive, cobalt skies. Jackrabbits scurry and hide in clumps of desert mesquite. Even modern-day cowboys in pickups wouldn't have a discouraging word to say about this scenic, Old West valley 15 miles west of Caliente.

Into this forgotten desert valley have come the first scouts of an expected army of construction workers and Air Force airmen. Dry Lake Valley represents the most visible beginning of the mammoth \$79 billion MX missile system, an undertaking called the largest construction project ever attempted by man.

Of course, President Carter hasn't yet selected where to place the 200 nuclear missiles. That decision won't come before next April. The Air Force hasn't even acquired public lands for the missile system from the Bureau of Land Management. And

the results of a study to determine if Nevada's fragile desert valleys are an environmentally acceptable place for the missiles won't be released before Christmas.

Despite these problems, surveyors are pounding stakes and flag markers into Dry Lake Valley. Since Sept. 3, they have been staking off 2.5-acre sections where the concrete missile shelters may be built.

By mid-November, the surveyors should finish staking locations for 230 missile shelters along a 40-mile stretch of Dry Lake Valley. The closest shelters are located only a couple hundred yards off Highway 93, about 135 road miles from Las Vegas.

"This is only a test program," explains Carl Swartz, the civilian siting and environmental adviser for the Air Force. "If the MX goes here, we won't be resurveying. We'll build here."

Even an unexpected form of vandalism hasn't stopped the Fugro National survey crews from their task.

"The cows like to eat the red

plastic flags," Swartz says. "They also like to rub against the stakes and knock them down."

But the destruction of survey markers by cows or MX foes doesn't disturb the Air Force.

"Two cents of mathematics work on a \$6 calculator and you could find the stake sites again," Swartz says. "Probably there are some anti-MX types who will want to do it. But hell, we don't even know if the damn program is going."

Suddenly a Golden Eagle rises from the desert floor, soars slowly in the wind and then abruptly lands on a desert scrub bush.

"He's sitting on top of a MX site," Swartz quips. "We ought to be playing the Star Spangled Banner."

The Pentagon contends America needs the MX to prevent the Soviet Union from ever launching a nuclear attack. Since the Air Force will shuffle MX missiles or decoys among 4,600 concrete shelters, then the entire Soviet nuclear arsenal might not be able to wipe out the system. Too many Russian warheads would

strike empty shelters, American military leaders reason. And the United States then could respond with its own attack — from remaining MX missiles, nuclear-armed submarines and warhead-equipped bombers.

Though Air Force spokesmen have said only gravel roads would be built for the transport vehicles which will move MX missiles between shelters, that's not exactly what's been happening at Dry Lake Valley.

Surveyors have marked out a path for a 40-mile-long paved road between Highway 93 and the north end of the valley. Survey maps show gravel roads will lead from the missile shelters to this paved road.

The announced Air Force plan also calls for moving one MX missile among 23 shelters located about 5,000 feet apart. Dry Lake Valley surveyors, however, have left space to expand to 34 shelters, Swartz says. Air Force spokesmen have stressed the size of the MX system could increase if the Soviets expand their nucle-

ar arsenal. This expansion means the MX will use 50 percent more land than now is necessary, he indicated.

Signs of the effects of the MX already are appearing in Caliente, a Lincoln County community with a population of only 986. The town's first new bank in years is going up.

"People in the mobile home business call me all the time," Swartz says. "They ask, 'Where do I get information about putting in a mobile home park?' Everybody is charging like there is no tomorrow."

Before the 1980s elapse, Caliente may be surrounded by clusters of MX missiles. The Air Force may put 350-kiloton missiles in five nearby valleys, including Delamar Valley, a ghost town area which boomed with gold miners in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Dry Lake conceivably may house MX missiles by 1983, the year the Air Force hopes 10 missiles are ready. The entire system is scheduled for completion in 1989.

"If the main base is located at Coyote Springs, then they will start here in Dry Lake Valley," Swartz says. "If the main base is located near Beryl, they will start at Wah-Wah or Pine valleys in Utah."

Where the MX will be built isn't the only question which will be answered in coming months. The Air Force also must decide whether to put its main MX operating base at Coyote Spring, 70 miles north of Las Vegas, or in Beryl, Utah. Crews of surveyors also are staking the Utah valleys. Beryl is located about 45 miles east of Panaca.

A Coyote Springs base — and its 7,500 airmen — would be "just a rifle's shot from Sheri's Ranch," Swartz adds. Sheri's, of course, was a well-known brothel before Lincoln County voters outlawed prostitution two years ago.

Whether to reopen the brothels is a question which may crop up if thousands of MX construction workers and airmen start settling in Lincoln County.

Alternate MX sites viewed

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Air Force officials said Tuesday that the yet-to-be released environmental study of the MX missile system will consider the option of placing missiles outside of the Great Basin.

However, the study will not consider any alternatives to the concrete shelter basing mode, said Pentagon spokesman Mike Garrell. The Air Force wants to scramble 200 MX missiles among 4,600 concrete shelters connected by gravel roads. Moving the missiles periodically will prevent easy detection by the Soviet Union, military officials believe.

Garrell said the environmental study will consider placing the \$79 billion MX within the Great Basin lands of Utah and Nevada or in desert lands in Texas and New Mexico. The study not is expected to be released until December. The president will not decide where to put the missile system until next April.

Utah Gov. Scott M. Matheson protested after Gen. Lew Allen Jr., the Air Force chief of staff, said last week the study would not consider alternatives to the MX.

"All of that was done and we've decided on the basing mode. The remaining question,

in the orderly progression of events, is where do we deploy," said Col. Randy McDonald of the office of the undersecretary of Defense.

Matheson claimed Allen's remarks were at a variance with Air Force assurances that "a serious and professional analysis of legitimate alternatives to horizontal shelters" would be made.

"This coming draft environmental impact statement will not address all basing modes because that's not its purpose," McDonald said. "That, I thought, was well understood by all parties, whether they were for or against MX."

RJ 10-21-80

List Announces MX Task Force

By PENNY LEVIN
SUN Staff Writer

Gov. Robert List said he has assembled a special task force of professionals to analyze the Air Force's \$17 million Environmental Impact Study on the proposed MX Missile System which will be ready by the end of the year.

Wednesday at a press conference, List announced the names of 250 Nevadans who will make up the 31 review teams to study the Air Force MX EIS.

He said the state has 90 days to review the 3,000-page document and make comments on its accuracy and completeness.

List described the analysis of the study as "a herculean task."

He said the teams would be financed through existing budgets of various state agencies which will be involved in the review of the EIS.

He said the teams would be looking at data from the Air Force, and attempt to

determine the conclusions and ramifications it would have for the state and its citizens.

If, however, the study is deficient, List vowed to challenge it.

The governor said the state also insisted that a mineralization study of the Dry Lake Valley be included in

the EIS and possibly of the 29 other valleys proposed for MX missile installations.

According to List, if valuable minerals were found in the areas, the MX system would be moved from those sites.

List said hearings on the study would be held in the state.

He said Congress approved the \$2.5 million allocation to the state for MX planning and said "there were no strings attached."

"It is ours to do with in an appropriate fashion, as long as it is for planning," he said.

List said the state would be hiring experts to look at the MX missile plan. Funds would be from the \$2.5 million.

On other matters, List said, he wanted the dumpsite closed in Nevada because he thinks it is bad for the state and, to successfully defeat Question 6 (which List opposes), he thinks it is necessary to get the facts out to the people.

SUN 10-23-80

Air Force refutes report of MX in silos

R-J Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — The Air Force refuted a recently published Aviation Week magazine report on Tuesday that claimed the Pentagon is still studying the possibility of placing the MX missile in existing Minuteman silos rather than in Nevada and Utah.

At this point the Carter ad-

ministration remains committed to a land-based mobile MX missile system, an Air force spokesman said.

Deploying the missiles in existing Minuteman silos or on flotation devices at sea have been reviewed and ruled out, the spokesman added.

In a recently published report, Aviation Week quoted un-

identified Pentagon sources who said the the Air Force has continued to study alternatives to building the MX in the West. The primary alternative, according to the respected trade magazine, would place the MX missiles in the existing Minuteman silos. The system would then be protected with a new ballistic missile defense system.

Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan has proposed such a plan as a short-term solution to the Soviet buildup in its nuclear arsenal.

A second alternative being considered, according to Aviation Week, is a hydra-launch deployment. This basing mode would carry missiles to sea where they would be deployed

in a vertical position on flotation devices.

The Air Force spokesman said the Minuteman and sea-based alternatives are flawed options.

The Minuteman system only has 1,054 silos, not enough to house the MX project, he said.

Also, the spokesman said, only 100 anti-ballistic missiles

are permitted under a treaty with the Soviet Union. Thus, by depending on ABMs as a primary safeguard to the MX system, the U.S. would be protecting 1,054 shelters with only 100 missiles.

Basing the missiles at sea is not a good idea because they would be easily detected by the Soviets, the spokesman added.

RJ

10.28.1980

Feds Would Pay Extras Under MX

The federal government will pay for schools, teachers, sewers and other public improvements required as an outgrowth of the MX missile system, a Defense Department official said in Las Vegas Tuesday night.

State and local governments will be reimbursed for the burden placed on them in the initial phases of the project, said Dr. Seymour L. Zeiberg, deputy undersecretary of defense for strategic and space systems, at a meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics held in the Desert Inn.

Zeiberg said that the federal funds to local governments would continue

until the MX workers had stayed long enough to create a solid tax base.

At that point, the tax funds would be able to produce enough revenue to make capital improvements self-sufficient.

The Air Force's latest basing mode, a small number of mobile launchers moving from site to site, is likely to remain unchanged.

The Air Force in the past has considered several different systems, including the so-called "racetrack" of missiles on a rail system.

Zeiberg said that a myriad of dif-

ferent plans were considered, like putting MX missiles on vehicles which would travel highways throughout America and placing MX missiles aboard aircraft which would continually fly from one airport to another to confuse the Soviet Union.

He expressed confidence that the MX program will go ahead, even if President Carter loses his re-election bid.

"If Gov. (Ronald) Reagan gets elected, there'll be an agonizing reappraisal," but that a Reagan administration would get behind MX.

SUN 10-29-80

Nothing Will Stop MX, Cannon Says

RENO (UPI) — As far as Sen. Howard Cannon is concerned, the MX missile project is on its way to Nevada and Utah.

There is no basis to suggestions the controversial project might be scrapped after the presidential election, the Nevada Democrat told Western Industrial Nevada, a Reno-based economic organization, Thursday.

"There's absolutely no question in my mind the MX system will be built. We've had numerous meetings, hearings and briefings and given funding authorizations for the go-ahead. Stopping it now wouldn't make any sense."

He said an indication of congressional sentiment was rejection of a recent House move to delay the project.

The Air Force study of other potential basing regions should be completed by next February, he said, but he doesn't expect any changes.

"My firm belief is that when this study is finished, the original Nevada-Utah site will still be identified as the best," he said.

He said dividing it with other areas of the country would raise the cost, already estimated well above \$50 billion in 1980 dollars.

Cannon, chairman of the Commerce Committee, said he has urged the Air Force to involve Nevada businesses in contracting and subcontracting for the project. He said some 69 Nevada firms have obtained \$12.2 million in MX contracts, but he said this is "really small potatoes compared with the huge contracts to be awarded for the system."

SUN 10-31-80

25
11-2-1980

Nye residents embittered by proposed MX project

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

TONOPAH — Around these parts women still tack up signs urging everyone to attend the upcoming quilting parties.

Oldtimers always pause on Main Street to exchange pleasantries and talk about this fall's pinenut crop.

They also mention their disgust about Air Force intentions to put MX missiles in nearby desert valleys.

"The MX will take our water, ruin our ranch land and make us a target for every SOB," says

Max Hanna, a retired road grader operator. "What the hell has Washington ever done for us which we didn't force them to do?"

Hanna grows bitter when he recalls the federal government's record in Nye County. These fiercely independent rural Nevadans have had their fill of bombing ranges, nuclear testing grounds and mock desert air warfare. Must they have missile sites, too? Have they not done their share?

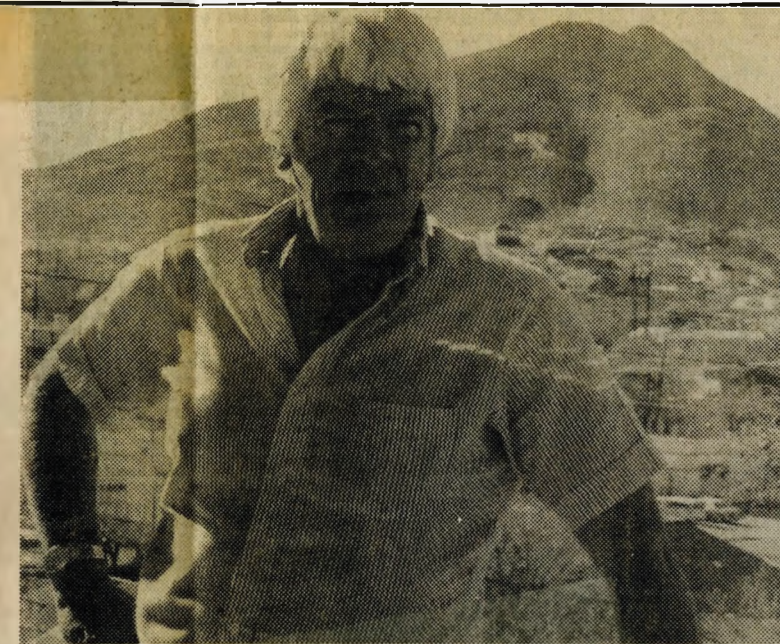
"I think the MX is going to ruin what we have left of our

county," adds retired school teacher Anne Tomany. "There are 49 other states. Couldn't they put the MX somewhere else?"

Tomany suffers from leukemia, which she swears the federal government gave her during the days of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s. She and her students would rush outside to watch the mushroom clouds rise over the distant Nevada Test Site.

"Why is it the government can

See MX,
Page 4A



ROY NEIGHBORS
... Nye County manager

—MX—

From Page 1A
dictate our lives?" Tomany asks. "This is supposed to be America."

Nye County residents are expected to go to the polls Tuesday and vote a resounding "no" on MX. Citizens in Nye, White Pine, Washoe and Churchill counties all will cast votes on whether they want the MX missiles placed on Nevada soil.

"I'm sure it will be a 'no' vote," Nye County Clerk Karen Quilter says. "I'd guess close to 99 percent of the people here are against MX. It would change our way of life."

"They ought to change the name of Tonopah to Bullseye," quips carpenter Craig Knoll. "Since the government wastes its money, it might as well waste some of it here on the missile system."

The carpenters one meets at construction sites may be the only people in Tonopah who support the MX.

carpenter. "They are afraid of growth."

But the Nye County citizens are as patriotic as anyone, County Manager Roy Neighbors maintains. They also have become supporters of the Sagebrush Rebellion.

Neighbors asks why the federal government must call on Nye County time and again for defense developments and yet will not free more public lands for land-locked Tonopah. The federal government manages about 98 percent of the land in Nye County.

These days the streets of Tonopah bustle with activity. Huge trucks pulling ore hoppers rumble north down Main Street. The roar of bulldozers reverberates off the surrounding mountains.

The times are changing. A motel sign may advertise Tonopah as a "nice town serving nice people," but nobody knows the bearded construction workers in plaid flannel shirts who walk

And the natives complain about the rise in crime. Two murders even were committed this year.

"I liked my town the way it used to be," says 15-year-old Chris Klapper. "We got these scrounges around now. They figure they can go back where they come from so they mess up our town. We used to leave our doors open at night. Now we have to lock them."

Tonopah is booming like it hasn't since the days back in 1900 when prospector Jim Butler chased after his runaway burro. Butler finally caught up with the animal and decided to collect a few rocks. He turned the rocks over to Tasker Oddie, an attorney friend, and then headed back to his hay farm.

A few days later Oddie came running up to tell Butler an assay showed the rocks were full of silver and gold. When stubborn Butler finally finished haying, he went back to the place the Sh-

a word for water brush, and staked his claims.

Butler would die a millionaire, while Oddie, whom he cut in for a share, later became governor of Nevada and a U.S. senator. About \$150 million worth of silver and gold was pulled from the surrounding hills before Tonopah began a decline a half century ago.

Tonopah's decline finally ended last December, when the Anaconda Copper Co. announced plans to dig a \$217 million molybdenum mine 23 miles north of town. Molybdenum is a hardener used in steel.

About 800 construction workers are struggling to complete the mine by next October. When the mining operation swings into full gear, Anaconda will employ 410 workers.

At the same time, 200 airman involved in the Red Flag mock war operations at the nearby Nellis Air Force Base Range

announced it will expand its Tonopah operations by 600 to 1,000 men starting in January.

Three mining companies already are using modern equipment to extract silver from the tailings left behind by the miners of Butler's days.

Consequently, the mining boom has brought a startling rise in the population of Tonopah. Last year, about 2,200 people lived in the community. Now the county clerk's office estimates the population at 3,000 to 3,500. Anaconda officials estimate the population will level off between 5,000 and 6,000 by December 1981.

Last May, 478 students attended Tonopah schools. Now 734 students crowd into the same classrooms. Voters have approved a bond issue to build a new elementary school near the Anaconda site. Some teachers now have 40-student classes.

says Ken Eason, owner of the Jim Butler Motel. "This area is growing without it."

Tourists should plan on booking reservations at least a week in advance at any of Tonopah's six motels. Most fill up nightly with construction workers and airmen.

"One mine contractor called and said he needed 14 rooms permanently and he didn't care what the price was," Eason adds. "If you don't fill your rooms every night, it's because someone canceled."

You can't find a rental advertisement in the weekly Tonopah Times-Bonanza. A sign on a wall advertises a sleeping room for rent. The price is \$15 a night with a five-night minimum.

A year ago Tonopah was a quiet little town. Today, citizens wait in lines at the post office and then walk next door to wait in an even longer line at the

Nye residents asked for thoughts on the MX



ALBERT MUNIZ
... MX cement finisher

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

What do you think of the MX missile system?

The Review-Journal asked this question to a number of Tonopah residents. Nye County voters will vote next Tuesday on whether they want MX missiles placed in nearby valleys.

The results of the election, however, may have no bearing on where the Air Force decides to put the \$79 billion missile system.

"It's the worst thing which ever could happen to Nevada. Whether our votes against the MX will do anything is a different matter. It's already been decided to put it here."

Judy Alzugary,
ranch woman

"I don't mind having it here. I feel if we have a need for it, then it has to go somewhere."

Collen Storey
"Nye County is going to be a nuclear sponge. Why don't they fire them from Main Street.

That way the Russians will never know where we are firing them from.

John Filon, retired military man

"I'm not in favor of it. We won't have enough water. But it won't bother me. I'm not going to live much longer."

Dorothy Egoscue,
82-year-old helper
at a Senior Center.

"I think it stinks. Why should Nevada pick up 80 percent of it? They are trying to push something down peoples' throats. The people have no say so.

Charles Mosnik,
retired.

"I'm against it. Nuclear warfare shakes me up."

Tweetie Burke
"I don't think it makes any difference how we feel. We're going to eat it anyway. Why don't we demand they return the land to its original state and when they are done and then return it to the state?"

Bonnie Brown

"Most people are here are not in favor of it. I'm sure it will be a no vote. I'd guess close to 99 percent. It's going to change the way of life around here. People like Tonopah the way it is."

Karen Quilter,
Nye County clerk

"The overwhelming majority in this area are not in favor of it because of our past experience in dealing with the federal government.

Terry Sotak,
county official

"We're fed up with any more encroachment by the feds. It's unfortunate we have congressmen and senators back there in Washington who can determine our fate. They think we have this large state without many people."

Roy Neighbors, Nye County manager

"I'm in support of the MX. They can put it in my backyard. I understand the Russian capabilities."

Patty Squires,
Air Force secretary

"I think it's a great thing. I'm for it 100 percent. I believe it's good for the nation and good for the townspeople."

Albert Muniz,
cement finisher

"I don't want it period. The government always says it won't take up a lot of land and they always do. If the MX comes, I don't know what we are going to do. For the business person, it would be a shot in the arm. But we have enough growth without it."

Ken Eason,
motel owner

"I'm used to going in the hills and fishing and hunting. It's going to take away our freedom. We had such a quiet little town."

Minnie Perchetti,
librarian

"Why are they picking on Nevada? There are 49 other states. Why is it they can dictate our lives. This is supposed to be America."

Anne Tomany,
retired teacher

"I don't care what they do. They are going to do it anyway. We can't stop them."

Beatrice Gill,
retired waitress

"They are going to change the name of Tonopah to Bullseye. We need it to keep up with Russia."

Craig Knoll,
carpenter

"You can't stop progress. The working man needs help."

Thomas Lopez,
carpenter

"Nevadans want open spaces and the freedom to go around in their four-wheel drives. People who love the outdoors oppose the MX. I don't think it will do any good if they vote no. Nevada has a motto 'All for our country.' There's only 13 percent left in Nevada to give."

Michael Dean,
reporter, Tonopah
Times-Bonanza

RS 10.2.1980

MX may be headed for overhaul by Reagan

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Already on shaky ground due to spiraling costs and stiff opposition in Utah and Nevada, the MX missile system proposed by the outgoing Carter administration appears headed for an overhaul by the incoming Ronald Reagan and his advisers.

"I'm not going to be tied to it," said William Van Cleave, Reagan's senior defense adviser and spokesman on MX matters.

His boss, in a campaign appearance this summer, promised a full-scale review of the MX if he were elected. Reagan carried both Nevada and Utah with ease in last week's election.

The first MX missiles would not be deployed until 1986, and that's if the project proceeds on schedule. President Carter's proposal was devised with SALT II in mind, but SALT's

chances for Senate passage were poor even before Republicans won control there.

The Carter administration has proposed basing 200 MX missiles on tracks to be shuttled among 4,600 shelters dug into the vast desert of Utah and Nevada — a space which would cover the combined areas of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Huge trucks would haul the 95-ton missiles, each of which would carry 10 warheads 100 times more explosive than the bombs dropped on Japan in 1945, along 8,500 miles of heavy-duty roads as yet unbuilt.

Cost estimates of Carter's proposal range from the Pentagon's figure of \$33.8 billion to \$68 billion by the General Accounting Office to

more than \$100 billion in other quarters.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Guy Hecker has called the MX "man's largest project, larger than the Great Wall, larger than the Pyramids, larger than the Alaska Pipeline or the Panama Canal."

That's what bothers the people of Utah and Nevada.

Residents in eight Nevada counties affected by the MX overwhelmingly rejected the project in a referendum vote Nov. 4.

Utah's MX coordinator, Ken Olson, said he fears the project would dot the desert with trailer camps, swell the welfare rolls and send inflation soaring.

In Utah alone, it is estimated the MX project would draw at least 125,000 jobseekers and dependents — many of whom would not be able to get MX jobs — to a rural area now home to

about 60,000 people who work mostly in mining and agriculture.

Olson points to the Alaska Pipeline project as an example of what Utah and Nevada can expect. The government told Alaska to expect 5,500 workers. In the end, there were 22,500.

MX opponents say the enormous construction project would strain the two states' already precarious water supply and lower air quality to levels below Clean Air Act standards, preventing other projects from being undertaken.

Oil shale, coal, uranium and more than 90 percent of the country's tar sands are located in Utah, where the government wants to develop synthetic fuels.

Utah Gov. Scott Matheson, in a recent speech to the Utah Mining Association, said,

"The State of Utah cannot be a major source of energy growth ... while at the same time serving as a national sacrifice area for deployment of the MX missile.

"Competition for water and air resources, labor and critical materials will obviously render many mining operations and some energy projects economically unfeasible," Matheson said.

Mining is even more important to Nevada, where Gov. Robert List said of the MX: "I just wish they could put it somewhere else, and I wish they would."

Van Cleave has said he is looking at the possibility of modifying existing Minuteman III silos to hold MX missiles.

Matheson, who says he talks with Van Cleave two or three times a week, also believes it would be

cheaper and quicker to deploy the MX missiles in Minuteman III silos.

The Air Force's environmental impact statement on the MX — due last July — is still not in sight although the Pentagon is now projecting it for sometime in December.

Matheson said Undersecretary of Defense

William Perry promised him the impact statement would deal with alternatives to the MX.

But in a recent speech, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen Jr. said, "The time for debate regarding the MX is past, the search for alternatives is over. Further delay in fielding the MX will jeopardize national security, pro-

vide a rash of costly, unsatisfactory alternatives and lead ultimately to less capability at greater cost."

The Air Force says its environmental statement will consider the "split-basing" option, whereby the Air Force deploys half the missiles in Utah and Nevada and half in Texas and New Mexico.

RJ

11.12.1980

Energy Funds Sought In MX

Air Force and Defense Department officials said Thursday they will try to convince Congress and President-elect Ronald Reagan to allocate \$202 million to develop renewable energy systems for the MX.

"It's very clear to us that President-elect Reagan will review the plans," said Lt. Col. Louis Montulli, deputy director of the MX Renewable Energy Systems Project. "We have been through many rigorous reviews, and all of them have come to the conclusion that the land-based system is the best."

The project, detailed earlier this week in Salt Lake City and Thursday in Las Vegas, involves developing alternative energy sources to support the MX missile system, with testing sites at Nellis Air Force Base and Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah.

The lame-duck Congress is expected to consider the project, which is under joint sponsorship by the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.

While Montulli acknowledged that existing commercial energy resources were adequate to support MX, he said there was a risk depending on them alone.

"The question is whether we want to take a risk where power is tight," Montulli said.

RUN 11.14.1980

Schools deciding factor in MX site

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Clark County may be chosen as the site for the Air Force MX missile base because the county could handle the influx of school students more easily than rural counties, a Pentagon spokesman said Sunday.

Construction of the \$79 billion missile system will bring 5,876 more students to surrounding areas by 1987, said Brig. Gen. James McCarthy, the Pentagon's special assistant on MX matters.

Such an enrollment increase would require the hiring of 248 additional teachers, he told an audience of Nevada school administrators. That figure represents about a 5 percent increase over the district's present professional staff size.

"That growth rate is well within the growth capabilities for a system as large as Clark Coun-



**JAMES
McCARTHY**
...MX spokesman

ty," McCarthy added.

This growth rate, however, could cause serious problems in White Pine County if the Pentagon decides to build the MX missile system's 7,000-force Air Force base near Ely, he said. The school district would be forced to hire 200 percent more teach-

ers if the missile base is built in sparsely populated Steptoe Valley outside Ely.

A permanent increase of 4,826 students — most of them dependents of military personnel — is expected when the missile system is completed in 1989.

"There is no question that the impact would be quite severe on White Pine County," McCarthy said. "It is these type of problems we are considering in deciding where the main operating base goes."

Congress recognizes its responsibility to build new schools because of enrollment increases resulting from the MX, he added.

The Air Force so far has not picked a specific location for the base. Clark County business interests — in particular the Nevada Development Authority — are lobbying to put the MX base at Coyote Springs

about 45 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Several rural Utah locations also have been mentioned as possible locations for the base. A Strategic Air Command report indicated last summer that Beryl, Utah, was the favored base site.

Weather conditions favor Coyote Springs, located along State Road 7, over Steptoe Valley, McCarthy said. About 25 factors will be considered in picking the base location.

"Some factors clearly favor Coyote Springs," he added.

The Air Force needs to build a 12,000-foot runway at the MX operating base, he said.

An 2,000- to 3,000-page report on the impact of the missile system is expected to be released in mid-December. President Ronald

Reagan may choose where to build the MX system and its main base next April.

Reagan advisers, however, plan to review the Air Force plan to put the

200 multi-warhead MX missiles under 4,600 shelters in the desert. William Van Cleave, Reagan's chief defense adviser, said Minuteman III silos could be converted for MX use.

25
11.14.1980

Air Force unveils new MX missile energy program

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

The Air Force unveiled a \$202 million program Thursday which challenges private industry to create the energy technology needed to power the MX missile system's bomb shelters and military bases.

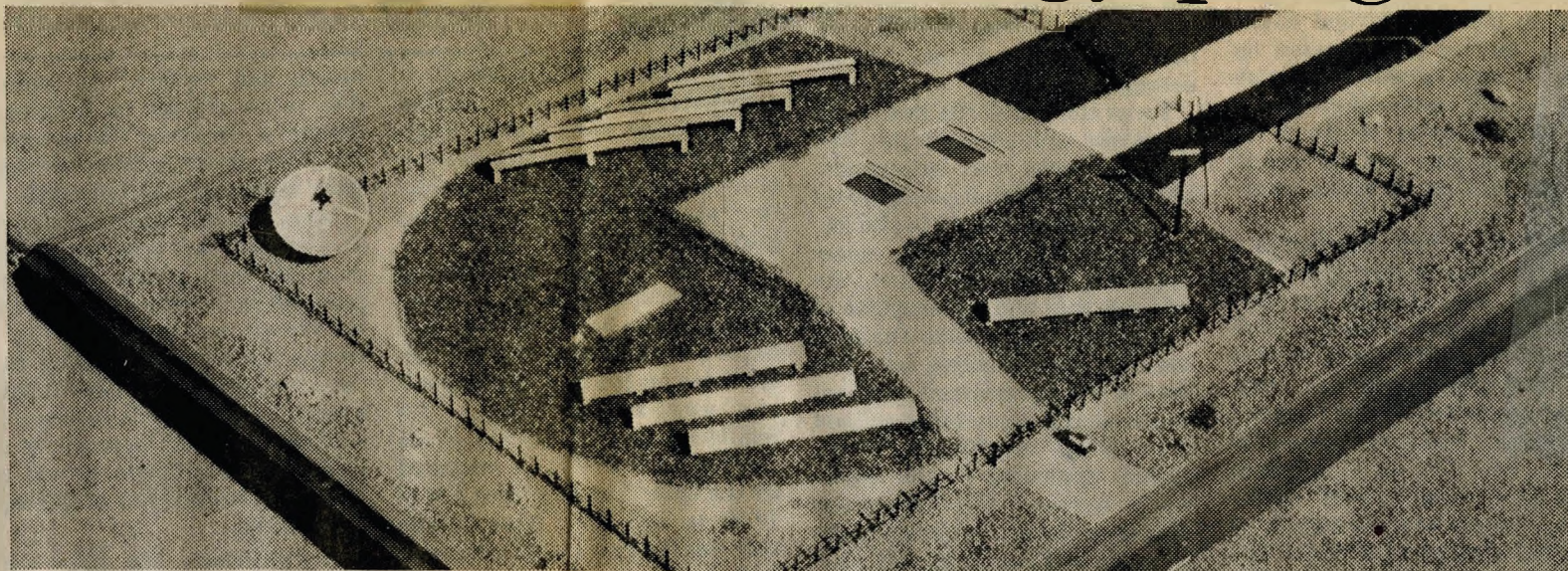
The Defense Department plans to conduct a competition among private contractors in an effort to create new solar, wind or geothermal systems to power the MX. If such renewable energy systems are built, then the MX would not have to rely on commercial power for its electricity needs.

Prototypes of the energy systems chosen for the MX will be built in 1982 at Nellis Air Force Base and at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

"We have to reduce our reliance on petroleum," Lt. Col. Louis Montulli said during a Las Vegas news conference. "We would prefer to provide our own power."

He indicated in his presentation that only about 25 megawatts of excess electricity now is available in the Nevada-Utah region. The Pentagon hopes to build the \$79 billion missile system in isolated Great Basin lands in the two states.

Two weeks ago the Air Force asked Congress to provide the funding for this project, named the MX Renewable Energy Systems Project. Projections show the MX system needs 108 to 130 megawatts of power a year to operate two military bases and 4,600 missile shelters.



POWER FOR MX SHELTER - The Air Force hopes solar shelter operations. Each of the MX's 4,600 shelters need 15 collectors like the ones shown in this drawing of a concrete kilowatts of power. missile shelter will provide the energy to power all MX

RS
11.17.1980

Pentagon names county as favored site for MX

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

The Pentagon announced Tuesday that it prefers to build the main MX missile system operating base at Coyote Springs, along State Route 7 about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

"It will be the first base to be constructed and the main MX assembly area," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Terrell said.

However, Terrell said the Coyote Springs site will be constructed only if the \$79 billion missile system is built in Nevada and Utah. If the missiles are placed in New Mexico and Texas, then Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, N.M., will serve as the top MX base.

A long-delayed 2,000 to 3,000 page impact statement on the effects of the MX missile sys-

tem will be released in mid-December. A decision on where to build the MX may be made by President Ronald Reagan in April.

Reagan's advisers say the president-elect may consider putting MX missiles in converted Minuteman III shelters and on submarines.

If the president decides to go forward with the Air Force's preference to place the 200 MX missiles in the Great Basin, then construction on a Coyote Springs base will begin in 1982.

When completed, 7,000 Air Force personnel will be stationed at the base. A 12,000-foot runway will be constructed. Most of the base will rest in Clark County, though a small portion will be located in Lincoln County.

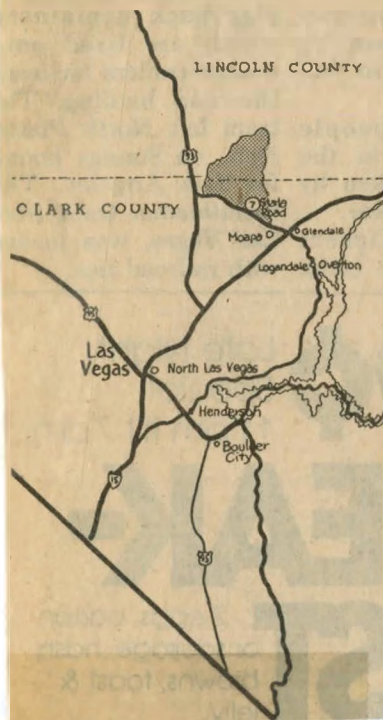
The draft impact statement

favors Coyote Springs mainly "because of how it will impact the community," Terrell said. "The community which it impacts most is Las Vegas."

Labor is more readily available in Clark County than other areas where a base might have been constructed, he said.

Brig. Gen. James McCarthy told a Las Vegas audience on Sunday that 5,800 additional school students would be brought to the MX construction area by 1987.

The Air Force also has been considering building the main base in isolated areas like Step-toe Valley near Ely, and Milford, Delta and Beryl, Utah. As late as last summer, a Strategic Air Command report listed Beryl as the favored base location.



RT
11.18.1980



County joins MX panel

Clark County became a voting member of the MX Oversight Committee on Tuesday, joining four other counties banded together to plan for the impact of the massive defense project.

The County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to join Lincoln, Nye, Eureka and Lander counties as voting members of the committee.

The commission vote also

gave final approval for Lander and Eureka counties to join the committee as voting members. Prior to the decision, Clark County had held non-voting membership.

The decision comes on the heels of an announcement from the Pentagon that the main MX missile system operating base will be built at Coyote Springs, about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Clark County will be represented on the committee by Commissioners Thalia Dondero and Bob Broadbent and Las Vegas City Commissioner Paul Christensen.

The oversight committee is a board consisting of three delegates from each member county. It was established to prepare for the missile project and to obtain funding to offset its impact.

R J 11-19-80

List says MX base would be boon to state economy

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Gov. Robert List said Tuesday that the Pentagon's decision to put the main MX missile system operating base in Clark County "culminates my efforts" to ensure economic benefits for Nevada.

"This represents the sugar coating on a pill that would otherwise be more difficult to swallow," List said in a prepared statement.

Air Force officials announced

earlier Tuesday that they want to build the main MX base at Coyote Springs, along State Route 7 about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

"It will be the first base to be constructed and the main MX assembly area," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Terrell said.

List said the Air Force recommendation means if Nevadans have "to pay the price of having MX in our state," then at least

they will be assured of an economic boost.

However, Terrell said the Coyote Springs site will be constructed only if the \$79 billion missile system is built in Nevada and Utah. If the missiles are placed in New Mexico and Texas, then Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, N.M., will serve as the top MX base.

"I should caution that this recommendation is not to be interpreted as the final decision to put the MX in Nevada," List

said. "The Reagan administration has yet to determine its policy toward the MX in Nevada."

A long-delayed 2,000- to 3,000-page impact statement on the effects of the MX missile system will be released in mid-December. A decision on where to build the MX may be made by President Ronald Reagan in April.

Reagan's advisers say the president-elect may consider putting MX missiles in convert-

ed Minuteman III shelters and on submarines.

If the president decides to go forward with the Air Force's preference to place the 200 MX missiles in the Great Basin, then construction on a Coyote Springs base will begin in 1982.

When completed, 7,000 Air Force personnel will be stationed at the base. A 12,000-foot runway will be constructed. The main portion of the base will rest in Clark County, though a

portion will be located in Lincoln County.

The draft impact statement favors Coyote Springs mainly "because of how it will impact the community," Terrell said. "The community which it impacts most is Las Vegas."

Labor is more readily available in Clark County than other areas where a base might have been constructed, he said.

See MX,
Page 4B

—MX—

From Page 1B

Brig. Gen. James McCarthy told a Las Vegas audience on Sunday that Clark County would need facilities for 5,876 additional school students who will be brought to the construction area by 1987. About 4,800 additional students, most of them the dependents of servicemen, would be living permanently in the area. The school district will need to hire more than 200 new teachers, he said.

Congress has indicated its willingness to help school dis-

tricts affected by the building of the MX, McCarthy added.

The Air Force also has been considering building the main base in isolated areas like Step-toe Valley near Ely, and Milford, Delta and Beryl, Utah. As late as last summer, a Strategic Air Command report listed Beryl as the favored base location.

But the impact report will recommend that Coyote Springs receive the main base and that Milford only get a support base if the MX system is built in the Great Basin.

R J 11-19-80

MX economic boom predicted

Southern Nevada can expect a decade-long economic boom because of the building of the MX missile system, a Las Vegas business leader predicted Tuesday.

"It's definitely a boom to Southern Nevada and probably every community here," said Tim Carlson, director of the Nevada Development Authority. "It's also a boom to the entire U.S. aerospace industry."

The \$79 billion MX missile system has been called the larg-

est construction project ever undertaken by mankind. The Air Force wants to hide 200 missiles, each containing 10 nuclear warheads, under concrete shelters spread out in the Nevada-Utah desert.

Carlson said he wasn't surprised by the Air Force's recommendation to build the main MX operating base in Coyote Springs, an isolated Clark County area about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

"We have been asking the Air

Force for months to consider Coyote Springs," he added. "We want to encourage MX industries to consider Southern Nevada not only for the project duration but for the future."

The private companies which will build the missiles are very technical, non-polluting firms, the kind Southern Nevada needs, Carlson said.

The Nevada Development Authority, a private organization which tries to recruit new businesses to Southern Nevada,

has been a strong supporter of the missile system. Both Air Force undersecretary Antonio Chayes and Defense Department undersecretary Seymour Zeiberg have been guests of the organization.

"We were satisfied the Air Force would decide Coyote Springs was the best place strategically," Carlson said. "You have to be near the people."

The Clark County site beat out four other locations which the Air Force was considering for its 7,000-man MX base.

R J 11-19-80

Two towns to merge

Residents of Overton and Logandale, two rural Clark County towns situated near the Air Force's proposed main MX missile base, voted to merge their communities Tuesday night.

The two towns, which have a combined population of about 1,400 residents voted 195 to 143 to combine their communities into one town proposed to be named Moapa Valley.

The new town, which still must be approved by the County Commission, will encompass about 90-square-miles and is situated about 30 miles from Coyote Springs, the area the Air Force announced Tuesday as its choice for a main MX missile base.

Although the proximity of the

MX missile was not the original reason for the two towns to ponder a merger it probably united residents, said Kevin Welsh, an analyst on the county manager's staff.

Welsh said the towns of Mesquite and Bunkerville, which lie about 30 miles from Coyote Springs, also are considering a merger. However those plans have been prompted by concerns other than MX, he added.

"I don't think MX was an issue in the election," John Fetherston, Overton town board chairman, said Wednesday morning. "I don't think it had any impact on the vote at all."

Although MX has recently become a concern of the town boards, the merger was started by Overton's desire to gain con-

trol over the St. Thomas Cemetery, which was located outside the community's boundaries on BLM land.

To gain control of the cemetery the community had to expand its boundaries. At that time Logandale also was considering expanding its boundaries and the two communities ultimately agreed to merge.

Welsh, who acts as an adviser to the unincorporated towns in the county, said he advised the two communities to merge and expand their boundaries so they could have control over the impacts of MX.

"If MX comes down they are going to see a lot of growth they would have no control over if it was outside their town boundaries," Welsh said.

R J 11-19-80

Nevada, Utah sites a certainty

By Ed Vogel

R-J Staff Writer

A still-unreleased environmental report recommends all 200 MX missiles be placed in the desert lands of Nevada and Utah, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The report virtually rules out the possibility that some missiles will be placed in Texas or New Mexico, said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Terrell. The two Southwestern states also were being considered as sites for the \$79 billion missile system.

But the long-delayed environmental report suggests Texas and New Mexico be considered only as alternatives. Al-

though a decision on where to build the system is supposed to be based on environmental factors, the Dallas Times-Herald reported Texas was rejected because Sen. John Tower doesn't want it in his home state.

The newspaper said Tower, R-Texas, may become the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and reportedly has been mentioned as a candidate for Ronald Reagan's secretary of defense.

The latest Pentagon release comes on the heels of Tuesday's announcement that the main MX operating base will be built at Coyote

Springs, about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas near the intersection of Highway 93 and State Road 7.

"It's a strong indication of how the Air Force wants to go," said Leo Soucek, the head of the Las Vegas office of the Martin Marietta Corp. "But it's still not positive."

Martin Marietta holds a contract to assemble the 190,000-pound MX missiles. Each missile contains 10 warheads, all which can be separately maneuvered.

Though the Air Force calls the site Coyote Springs, most of the base actually will be built in an unnamed

Clark County valley in the southern end of Kane Springs Valley, Bureau of Land Management officials said. Nearby Coyote Springs is owned by state Sen. Floyd Lamb, D-Las Vegas.

"I haven't even talked to the Air Force," Lamb said Wednesday. "I was thinking about giving it to the church."

Coyote Springs has been held by the Lamb family for more than 50 years as a water source for cattle. The springs is surrounded completely by the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Until two years ago, two houses of prostitution

operated in the Coyote Springs area. Lincoln County voters outlawed prostitution in a 1978 referendum.

The future of the MX system depends on what Ronald Reagan decides when he enters office in December. Some of Reagan's advisers have called for taking missiles out of the desert and placing them in converted Minuteman III shelters.

R J 11-20-80

Unique town planned for MX personnel

By Dick Turpin
Los Angeles Times

A precisely planned new town, unlike any other in the world, is destined to occupy a remote and stark environment somewhere in the now pristine span of the Nevada and Utah deserts.

It will be home for military personnel assigned to the nation's MX missile base, key component of the largest military authorization bill in American history.

Nearby will be 200 MX missiles, deployed in underground shelters, comprising the nation's principal bastion of defense.

Into this grim, highly sensitive setting, planners, both military and civilian, are attempting to create a community that would assure "a high quality of life" for the 20,000 personnel concerned.

Opposition to the establishment of the base in their area is being expressed by ranchers, farmers and townsfolk in the far reaches of Nevada and Utah but, as one citizen of Pioche in southeastern Nevada put it regrettably:

"Eighty-seven percent of Nevada is federal land to start with. What the individual thinks isn't going to change their minds."

Field surveys started in September in the Day Lake Valley of Nevada and in October in the Pine and Wah Wah valleys in Utah. But the Air Force's environmental impact study also

will study potential Texas and New Mexico sites.

That study favors building the MX community in Coyote Springs about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas near the intersection of Highway 93 and State Road 7 (also known as old Highway 93).

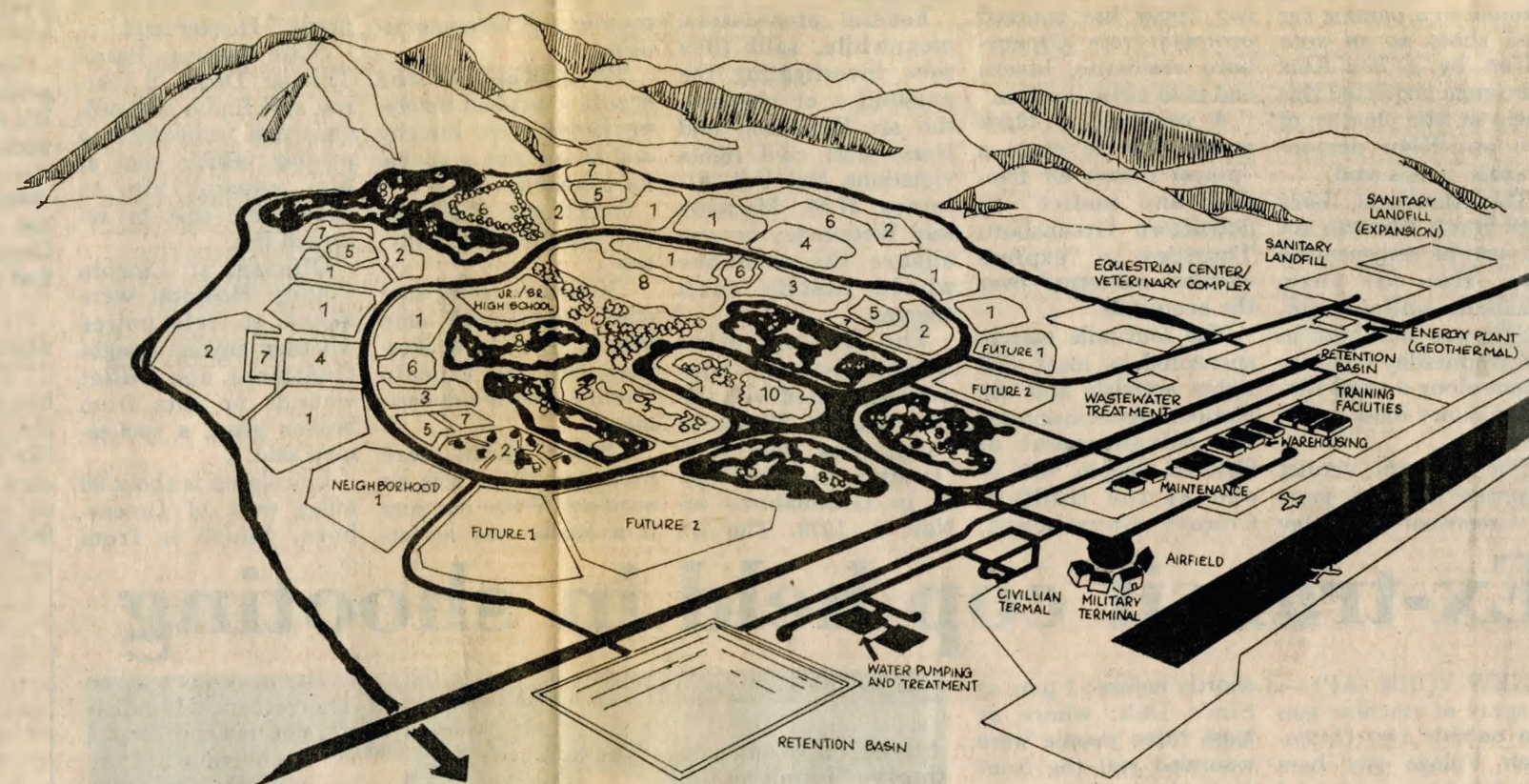
Gerry Simon, senior vice president of Orange County-based PRC Toups Corp., one of three private consulting firms selected by the Air Force to prepare conceptual plans for the MX weapons system base facilities, said 10,000 square miles is needed, of which about 3,000 acres would accommodate the base — housing, town center, air strip and terminal, hangar and maintenance facilities.

The remainder of the vast 10,000 square miles would be used for an elaborate system of missiles, to be stored in a "rotating" arsenal, dependent upon the fate of SALT II, which still awaits ratification by the U.S. Senate.

The concept of the MX missile site operating base as envisioned by Simon and his team has been received warmly by Defense Department planners and was described as one of the finest community plans ever prepared for a military community.

It is, virtually, a carefully designed planned community in search of a site, preferably near foothill terrain.

Simon, who is project director, said the plan evolved from a multidisciplinary effort by his



1. Residential — low density
2. Residential — medium density
3. Residential — high density
4. Neighborhood centers

5. Elementary school
6. Neighborhood parks
7. Recreation areas
8. Golf

9. Town center park
10. Town center complex

team, hewing closely to the Air Force's directive to be concerned fully with the "quality of life" at the base. The plan was presented recently to SAC headquarters at Omaha, Neb.

He indicated that elements of the PRC plan could be combined with elements of plans proposed by the two other con-

sulting firms — Benham and Blair in association with W.M.R.T. of Philadelphia and EDAW of San Francisco.

In the detailed and lengthy research undertaken for the missile base, Simon and his co-workers felt the awesome significance of their work — to provide a city for those who will

be responsible for the land-based strategic defense of the Free World.

Urban designers, land use analysts, transportation planners and energy system experts have never faced such a challenge before.

The PRC team designed their plan around five basic land uses:

the town center, low, medium and high-density residential neighborhoods, open space, the airfield and buffer zone and the system of streets, bikeways and walkways.

In its recommendations for energy uses, PRC contemplated use of geothermal areas.

Ely residents campaign for MX missile headquarters

RENO (AP) — Despite an announcement by the Air Force that Coyote Springs near Las Vegas is the top choice for an MX missile system operating base, residents of Ely are continuing a campaign to bring the MX headquarters to their eastern Nevada town.

"We intend to keep working on it," said Bill Coffman, leader of Ely's drive to establish an MX base in nearby Steptoe Valley. "That's not their (the military's) final decision."

Coffman, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce's Ely MX Base Committee, said his group will "try to communicate with as many people as possible in the decision-making area" to keep Ely in contention.

However, White Pine County citizens voted 937 to 2,199 against the MX system during the Nov. 4 general election.

Pentagon MX chief Brig. Gen. James McCarthy said Tuesday that Coyote Springs is the Air Force's proposed operating base, and Milford, Utah, is the top choice for a secondary headquarters.

Ely has been considered as a possible operating base and still is among several alternative locations which could be chosen over Coyote Springs. Coyote Springs is named in the MX draft environmental impact report, but McCarthy stressed that no

final decision has been made.

Betty Whitehurst, chief executive of the Ely Chamber of Commerce, said McCarthy recently called a report issued by the Ely MX committee on the advantages of placing the operating base there "the best presentation" he's seen on the subject.

She said Ely residents are concerned that the MX missile system would have a "boom-

bust" impact on Ely unless a permanent military base was located near the town.

Whitehurst said White Pine County ap-

parently lacks the clout to convince the Air Force of its point.

"It's another situation of being a small stepchild from a rural county," she said.

RJ 11-20-80

IMPACT
by
KEN O'CONNELL
Executive Vice President
GREATER LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



CHAMBER SCORES AS PENTAGON PICKS COYOTE SPRINGS AS MX MAIN SUPPORT BASE...

Many months of work by the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and its MX Task Force Group have scored a success with the Pentagon's announced preference of Coyote Springs as the MX main support base.

It is believed that the EIS statement to be released in mid-December will also name Coyote Springs near here as the choice site. And there is doubt that the \$79 billion MX mobile missile system will be split-based between Nevada-Utah and Texas-New Mexico due to the many millions of dollars it would add to construction costs.

According to the Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Mike Terrell, Coyote Springs will be the first base constructed and is to serve as the MX main assembly area. It will be under the operation of the Air Force's Strategic Air Command, with some 7,000 Air Force personnel stationed at the base in addition to the civilian work force.

Brig. Gen. James McCarthy, the Pentagon's special assistant on MX matters, has made frequent visits to Las



McCARTHY

Air Force Base, Omaha, Neb.

While some of President-elect Ronald Reagan's scientific advisers are opposed to the present MX basing mode, it is believed that when all of the facts are presented by the Air Force, Reagan will approve the USAF's recommendations.

Commenting on the Pentagon's preference of Coyote Springs, chamber president-elect Tom Wiesner said, "The economic impact of this MX main support base at Coyote Springs will be extremely beneficial to the entire Las Vegas area. We are pleased that the long-time efforts of our organization's MX task force group have been rewarded by the Pentagon's decision."

Vegas and is among the many MX officials who have met with our chamber's task force group. He is thoroughly familiar with the Coyote Springs area and the impact of MX main support base on Las Vegas. McCarthy has been working closely with Gen. Richard H. Ellis, commander in chief of the Strategic Air Command with headquarters at Offutt

Sun

11.23.1980

Rural Nevadans resigned to MX

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

The people of rural Nevada have surrendered to the Air Force.

These ruddy-complexioned, independent-thinking people shrug their shoulders and sigh when someone mentions the MX missile system. Most would prefer the MX just went away.

"What can we do about it?" they say. "No matter what we say, it's coming anyway."

The Moapa Paiute Indians are like everybody else when it comes to the MX, Tribal Chairman Preston Tom says.

"We don't like the MX, but what can we do?" he says. "It's here to stay."

If the Air Force has its way, a huge military base will rise among the yuccas and sagebrush along Highway 7 about 15 miles west of the Moapa Reservation.

Here — 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas — the Air Force wants to station 7,000 airmen to stand watch over the MX system's 200 multiple warhead nuclear missiles.

The missiles themselves will be spread out in valleys in eastern Nevada and western Utah. Some may be located in Dry Lake Valley, just

east of Caliente and about 100 miles by air from Las Vegas.

Of course, the \$79 billion missile system is still only a Pentagon pipe dream. Ronald Reagan could decide to throw out the whole idea.

But you can't convince people in Alamo nor Moapa Indians that the MX isn't coming. Every day they see water drilling rigs move past their homes toward the proposed base site at Coyote Springs.

"Too much money already has been spent," says Lemoine Davis, an Alamo service station owner who serves as a Lincoln County representative on the MX Oversight Committee. "It's going to be built here."

All this drilling and staking of missile sites disturbs Alamo postmaster Ed Sharp.

"The Air Force is doing it without the approval of Congress," he says. "They are shoving it down our throat. The government is in it so far now, how are they going to back out?"

Drillers work around the clock hammering pipe deep into the earth on two exploratory water well sites on the huge Coyote Springs base.

"We hope to find some deep sources," says Sarah Raker, a geologist for Hydro Search of Reno. "If water is not here, then it's not here."

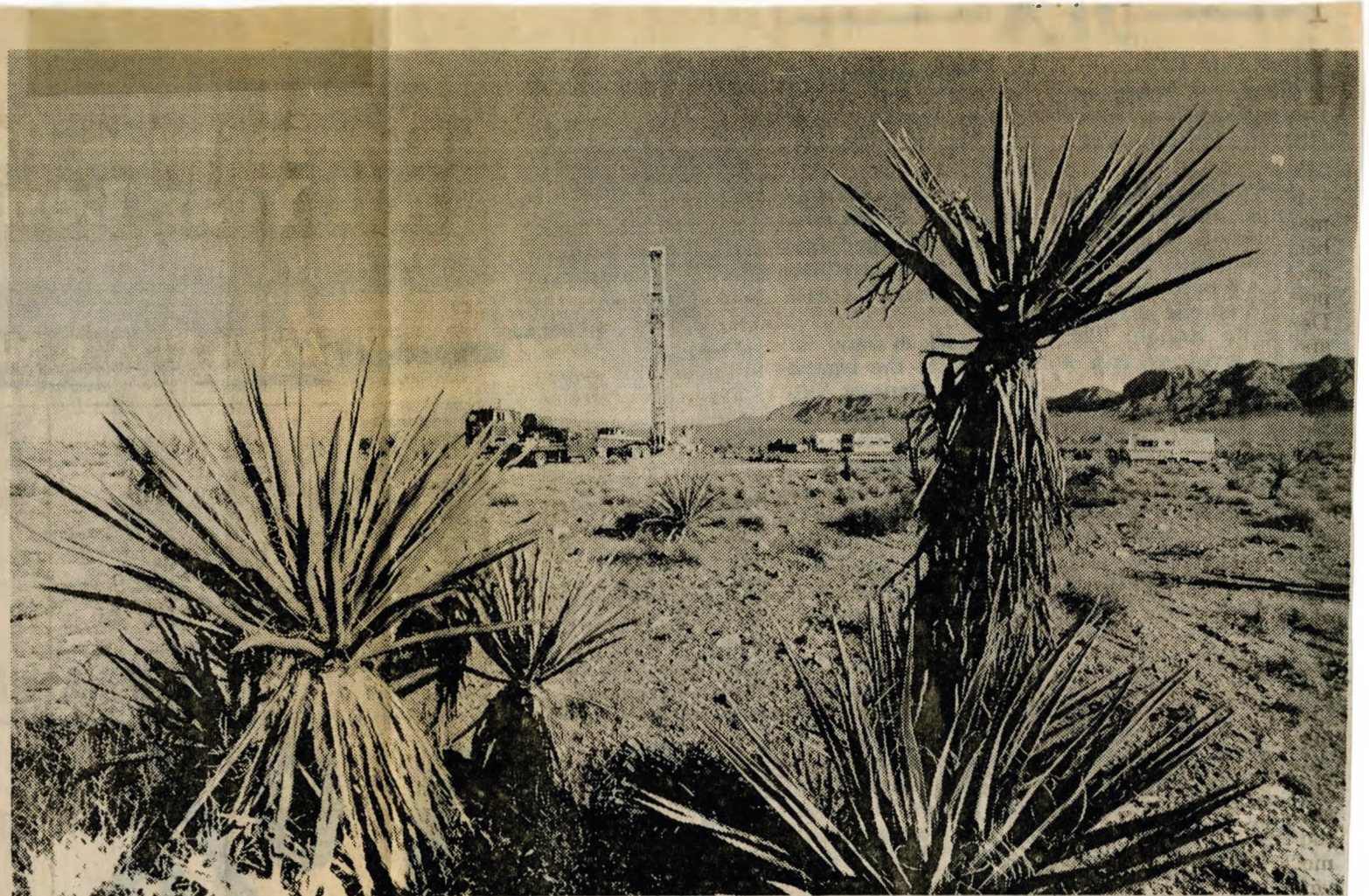
Raker says deep wells will be drilled along Highway 7, about 20 miles west of the Interstate 15 cutoff at Glendale.

Though the Air Force has dubbed the entire base area "Coyote Springs," Raker is aware this Clark County location lies just north of the Arrow Canyon mountain range.

The Coyote Springs itself rests 20 miles up the road in Lincoln County at the foot of the now-closed brothel, Judy's Coyote Springs Ranch.

The area around the closed house of prostitution bustles with activity these days. A water

See MX,
Page 2D



R-J photo by Rene Germanier

DESERT DRILLING - Water drilling rigs are rising up among the yuccas as drillers seek water for the MX base

at Coyote Springs. No water has been found so far at this site at the north end of the planned Air Force base.

RJ 11.30.1980

MX

From Page 11

drilling crew camps out in mobile homes behind the deteriorating brothel.

Until the MX boom, Coyote Springs had a population of four — two caretakers at Judy's and a couple a mile down the road at closed Sherri's Ranch. The spring gives out only a trickle of water.

"I don't have a hell of a lot of use for people," says Ray, a caretaker at Judy's.

For more than two years, Ray, who won't give his last name, and a friend have served as watchmen over Judy's. If they were not here, everything would "be gone or burned," he says.

"We still get a surprising number of people out here," Ray adds. "These guys who attended conventions in Las Vegas three or four years rent cars and drive up. They think we're open."

But the only prostitutes around are in the imaginations of the grizzly faced drillers.

Five miles south of Judy's, the Northwest Air Drilling Co. of Salt Lake City has dug more than 500 feet into the ground in search of wa-

ter. This drilling site, at the north end of the "Coyote Springs" base, rests in Kane Springs, Wash.

"We haven't hit anything yet," drilling foreman Dean Mitchell says. "There isn't anything down there as far as I know."

The lack of water for the base is the biggest fear of Pahranaagat Valley residents about the MX system, service station owner Davis says.

"These valleys are barely surviving with the water we have," he says. "If they don't find water at the base, then where are they going to get it?"

People around tiny Alamo, population 700, believe the Air Force will take their water if necessary, Davis says.

"If there is one thing that makes Mormons mad, it's losing water," he adds. "They will fight to keep it."

But the folks in the communities closest to the MX base aren't ready to fight. They say you can't beat the inevitable.

"It will bring a lot of jobs, but it will mess up this little town," says Jimmy Lamb of Alamo. "We really don't have a choice."



DRILLING COMMUNITY - A community of trailers has formed along Highway 7 as drillers seek water for the MX base near Coyote Springs.

RJ photo by Rene Germainier

25 11.30.1980

Official battles for MX center

While residents in the small towns near Coyote Springs would like the MX to go away, the Ely business community is campaigning to bring the missile system to White Pine County.

"If the MX is coming, then we want more than just the guns," said Betty Whitehurst, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. "Clark County is getting everything but the guns."

Between 80 and 85 percent of the 200 MX missiles may be hidden in shelters within a 75-mile radius of Ely. No missiles at all will be placed in Clark County, although the populated portion of main base will be constructed in a valley 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

"The political clout is in Clark County," Whitehurst said. "Sen. (Howard) Cannon told us six weeks ago it was not in the cards for us to get anything. Cannon sold out to Clark County."

Whitehurst, however, isn't giving up. She has organized an Ely MX Base Committee to try to influence the Air Force to put its main base in Steptoe Valley about 15 miles south of town.

Building the MX base

in Steptoe Valley would increase the White Pine County population from 10,000 to 40,000, she predicted.

How much support the lobbying effort will receive remains a mystery. During the Nov. 4 general election, White Pine County residents overwhelmingly voted 2,199-937 against having anything to do with the MX.

"We don't give up easily," Whitehurst said. "We had a lot of people in favor of the MX who just didn't vote."

Whitehurst has a tradition of not giving up on causes. She repeatedly lobbied members of the 1979 Nevada Legislature in an effort to secure a state prison for Ely. In the final days of the legislative session, however, the lawmakers decided to build the \$30 million prison at Indian Springs.

"I think we may ask to withdraw from the state," Whitehurst said in frustration. "Clark County gets everything."

RJ 11-30-80

Anti-MX leader raps county

Clark County officials have disregarded current public needs by welcoming the construction of the main MX missile base at Coyote Springs, an anti-MX spokesman said Sunday.

"The economics of the MX missile system will bring a disaster for Clark County," said Stephen Rohl, chief spokesman for Nevadans Opposed to the MX (No MX). "If they get their hands out of their pocketbooks, they will see how much it will cost."

Las Vegas already cannot provide the services the public wants because of housing and traffic problems, increasing air pollution and population growth, Rohl added.

Putting the main MX base 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas will create competition for labor, building materials, gas, water, social services and school facilities, he said.

However, organizations like the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada Development Authority have welcomed the decision to put

the main MX base in Clark County. They predict it will create a decade-long boom.

"It sounds like a boom," Rohl said. "But after the boom comes the bust."

The Pentagon wants to put all of the \$79 billion MX missile system in Nevada and Utah. The announced plan calls for building the main 7,000-man Air Force base in Clark County near the intersection of Highway 93 and State Road 7.

A 1,500 page, 20-pound draft environmental impact statement on the effects of putting 200 nuclear missiles in the desert may be released next week. President Ronald Reagan will decide whether the system will be built next April.

"Reagan has come out with new ideas," Rohl said. "Nothing is certain."

No MX organizations plan to form a team of professionals to analyse the impact statement. A 250-member MX task force also has been formed by Gov. Robert List.

Rohl estimated 50,000 construction workers will be drawn

to Nevada because of the MX missile system. Only 14,000 of them will get jobs, he said.


"These people will require schools and social services at a time when the state of Nevada is moving toward a reduced budget," he said.

Wages for construction workers may double, Rohl said, while rents increase four times. People on fixed incomes will have a hard time surviving in such an inflationary economy, he added.

Because the MX base is a federal installation, tax revenues that can be collected by state and local governments do not compare to what private industry would bring, Rohl said. Sales tax collections will be minimal because airmen and base employees may buy goods at a tax-free commissary, he added.

"So many people have expressed disgust with the federal government's handling of public lands that I am sure they have doubts about the government helping us with increased tax burdens," Rohl said.

RJ 12-8-80



Reagan aide wants MX put in Minuteman silos

**By John Diaz
R-J Washington Bureau**

A key member of president-elect Ronald Reagan's transition team told several governors Monday he will recommend that MX missiles be placed in existing Minuteman missile silos.

William Van Cleve, who attended a Democratic governors

meeting in Annapolis, Md., told several governors that his recommendation will be made by Jan. 20, 1981, before Reagan takes office, according to Utah Gov. Scott Matheson.

One of the options being considered by Van Cleve, Matheson said, is to upgrade the Minuteman III silos in the Midwest

to accommodate the MX missile system.

According to Matheson, Van Cleve did not indicate whether he would recommend rotating the missiles around a large number of shelters — which is the strategy behind the MX "shell-game" deployment designed by the Carter administration for the Nevada-Utah de-

sert. Van Cleve also did not rule out the possibility of building additional Minuteman silos for the MX.

"What he said to me is that he would look at all the options and make some kind of decision by Jan. 20," Matheson said. "Of course, Minuteman silos have been Van Cleve's preference for months before the election and

this does not mean that Reagan would accept it."

Should the Reagan administration choose to deploy the MX warheads in Minuteman silos, there is still a possibility that additional silos could be constructed in the Nevada-Utah Great Basin.

However, Matheson said that the impact would be "substan-

tially less" than that of the mammoth 4,600-shelter system earmarked for the Great Basin by the Carter administration.

"In fact, if the Reagan administration does go that route, I have said that I will be more than happy to accept my fair share of the missiles in Utah," Matheson said.

RS 12.9.1980

Senator's Support Crucial

Laxalt May Oppose MX Base

By BILL BECKER
SUN Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Paul Laxalt said Monday that an environmental impact statement which will be issued later this month "is relevant only so far as having MX built in Nevada and Utah is relevant."

Laxalt's remark roused further suspicion that the close advisor to President-elect Ronald Reagan is cementing his opposition to the grid land-based missile system which has been proposed for development in portions of Nevada and Utah.

But asked whether he was committed to an alternative proposal requiring modification of about a thousand existing Minuteman missile

silos, Laxalt said he was willing to examine all the options.

"I'm listening," he said. "I'm loose."

"Everyone recognizes that we should have MX. The question is—how do you base it?"

"In terms of lead time and expense to upgrade the Minuteman, it would cost less than building it in Nevada and Utah."

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a voluminous 1,500-page document, will be made public Dec. 17. Laxalt said he had been briefed on its contents and found nothing unsettling in it.

Meeting briefly with

members of a Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Task Force Group, Laxalt left a bitter impression on the minds of some members that "He doesn't really understand the problem yet."

One member said he felt Laxalt had made up his mind not to support building MX in Nevada.

But Chamber president Tom Wiesner suggested Laxalt attempt to review any alternatives which would cost less and operate more effectively. "If we're going to have MX, we want to be sure that local business will benefit and that we can deal with the impact," he said.

The chamber group recommended Laxalt persuade

Reagan to form a "prestigious Review Group on the MX as soon as possible, and prior to his inauguration." Former President Gerald Ford, former Sec. of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and retired USAF Gen. Bernard Schriever could chair the group, according to the recommendation which was introduced to the chamber group by Lt. Gen. Kelly Burke last week.

Gen. Burke serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development at the Pentagon and is instrumental in seeing MX through.

But Laxalt brushed aside the suggestion, saying later that Reagan would continue to stay in touch with various people on MX.

The Chamber group has met with U.S. Sen. Howard Cannon and Congressman Jim Santini, both of whom have lent their support to the MX system as it is proposed to be built in Nevada and Utah. But because of Laxalt's proximity to Reagan, groups lobbying to bring the enormous project into the state have been told the Republican senator's support is crucial for it to be constructed.

5012
12-9-80

List task force to analyze MX impact report

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

Gov. Robert List's MX task force will analyze the just-released MX environmental impact statement to determine how seriously the missile system will drain Nevada's water, the state's MX coordinator said Tuesday.

"Water has always been one of our major concerns," MX coordinator Steve Bradhurst said. "Everything is going to be looked at closely."

Bradhurst welcomed the release of the MX draft environ-

mental impact statement, but declined comment on it until he reviews its contents.

That report, obtained by the Review-Journal, indicated that construction of the MX system in Nevada will have a "significant" impact on the state's water supplies. Importing Colorado River water was recommended as a way to lessen the impact on Nevada.

"The environmental impact statement reinforces the concerns we have been expressing for months," anti-MX spokesman Bill Vincent said.

If the Air Force wants to use Nevada land for the MX, then it ought to consider taking water from other areas, he added.

"Other states have water, we have hardly any," Vincent said. "As a trade off, maybe we can import from the Snake River or the Columbia River?"

He suggests the Air Force import extra water in order to restore recreational areas like Pyramid and Walker lakes.

So far, the Air Force has filed 116 applications for the withdrawal of Nevada water, state

Water Engineer Bill Newman said.

Most recently the Air Force filed requests for water in the Coyote Springs area, the Clark County location where the main MX base may be built.

Bradhurst has asked the Pentagon to make 500 copies of the impact statement available for state use. About 250 Nevadans have been named to the 30 teams in List's MX task force. In particular, Bradhurst wants to analyze 32 technical documents which will accompany the 20-pound impact statement.

"Our analysis will be very objective," he added. "We will be looking at both pro and consides."

In related news, the Pentagon announced Tuesday it wants to build four small Air Force support bases near Nevada communities to provide security for the MX missile system.

Each 55-acre area support base will have living and recreational facilities for about 300 people. Security forces from these bases will be able to respond within 30 minutes to in-

trusion alarms at any MX shelter, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Area support bases may be constructed in valleys near Tonopah, Ely, Eureka and Pioche, all in Nevada, and also near Delta and Milford, Utah.

However, the Pentagon said a decision on whether to build these bases will not be made until next year by President Ronald Reagan. Reagan will decide in April whether to build the proposed \$79 billion, 200 missile system.

RJ 12.10.1980

MX statement warns of threat to water supply

By John Diaz

R-J Washington Bureau

The MX missile system could threaten Nevada water supplies seriously, according to a draft of the long-awaited MX environmental impact statement being circulated to members of Congress.

Nonetheless, the statement concludes the Nevada-Utah Great Basin still remains the "preferred area" for the 4,600-shelter, 200-missile system.

The draft statement has been given to Congress so members can review and comment on the document. In a preface admon-

ishing Congress not to leak its contents, the Air Force warns that changes could be made in the statement before the draft is made public later this month.

The statement outlined a ripple effect of problems that the system could impose, including a lower water table, reduced

Related story, Page 2B

spring flows, dried-up wells and a reduction in water quality in the areas in which the missiles and their bases will be located.

Those conditions also could harm plant and wildlife that

rely on the water supply, the report said.

"Impacts caused by a lowering of the water table could be significant," the draft statement warned.

The environmental study focused on two potential deployment areas — the Nevada-Utah

desert and west Texas-New Mexico. The draft report does not rule out the possibility of splitting the \$56 billion system among the two regions.

However, the statement See MX, Page 3A

—MX—

From Page 1A

clearly spells out the advantages of the Nevada-Utah desert for the mobile MX missile system.

The mostly public-owned, largely barren valleys that extend through Nevada and Utah have been the Air Force's top choice for a series of shelters in which nuclear weapons would be shuttled along a linear alignment in order to elude Soviet detection.

If the Air Force follows through with its intentions for a single-region deployment — plans that could be altered or scrapped by President-elect Ronald Reagan — the draft statement recommends Coyote Spring Valley and Milford, Utah, for the sprawling command centers that would be required for the MX.

In the event of split-basing, the draft environmental statement recommends Coyote Springs and Clovis, N.M.

Should Coyote Springs become an MX command center, the statement predicts intense construction work and an influx of 13,000 employees could strain

the sparse water supply and adversely effect bighorn sheep that roam the region.

Water has been a prime concern of local and state officials in Nevada.

The study expected that potential water problems at Coyote Springs would be "moderately high" in comparison to other areas under consideration. However, the Air Force study added that those detrimental conditions could be "reduced or avoided" by:

— Shipping water in from outside the region (the Colorado River was suggested as a source).

— Incorporating "water-saving features" in the construction and operation of the MX system.

— Using wastewater for irrigation and "other non-potable uses."

— Locating well fields to avoid "direct impacts" on springs and existing wells.

To defuse local protests, the Air Force has agreed to follow all state water laws in the construction and maintenance of the MX system.

Similarly, the thinning herds of bighorn sheep in the region would be threatened by an MX command center at Coyote Springs.

The draft statement noted that the migration routes of three herds cross Highway 93. An increase in vehicle traffic either could cause the sheep to avoid crossing the highway or increase the number of animals killed by accident, the draft statement said.

The report also anticipated that the influx of workers into Coyote Spring Valley would increase the amount of poaching of the sheep.

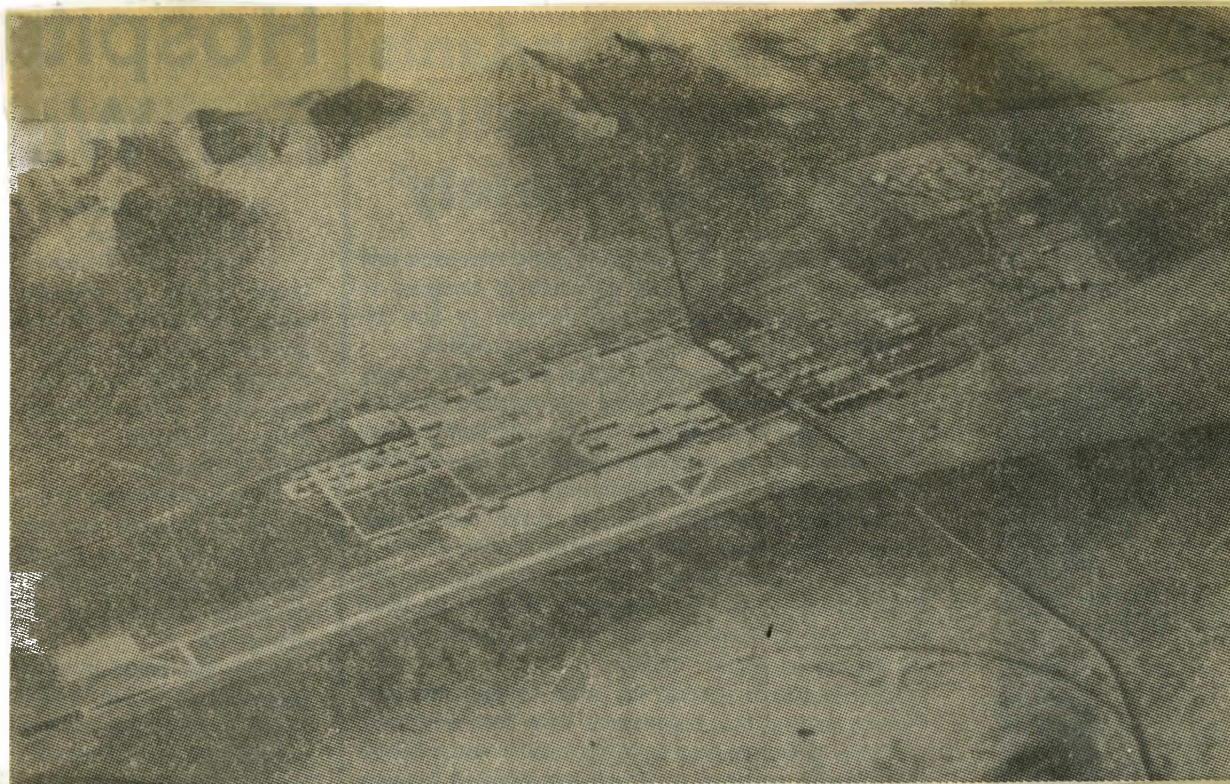
Three measures were suggested in the draft report to protect the bighorn sheep, a highly prized and dwindling game:

— Prohibiting high-powered rifles in construction camps for workers "both on and off duty."

— Restricting recreation near known watering holes of the sheep.

— Strict enforcement of hunting laws by state authorities.

RJ 12.10.1980



MISSILE SITE — The Air Force Wednesday released this artist's concept of the proposed MX missile site at Coyote Springs.

MX Roads Affect Nevada Mining

Road networks will interfere with mining activities in four Nevada counties during construction of the MX missile system, according to a preliminary draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) obtained by the SUN.

But it suggests that the industry will benefit as outlying areas become more accessible and the demands for local raw minerals and building materials increase.

Additionally, the DEIS reveals that there will be a substantial impact on vegetation near the proposed site of the operations base slated for Coyote Springs. Approximately 7,000 acres of vegetation will be permanently removed as a result of construction.

The primary vegetation that will be affected includes creosote bush scrub, Joshua trees, desert marsh and spring vegetation, and wash and arroyo vegetation. Las Vegas will be indirectly affected with degrading vegetation caused by fugitive dust, groundwater drawdown, collection of certain plant species for commercial purposes and recreational uses.

"Complete recovery," the report says, "is likely to require a minimum of 100 years."

The impact statement also says that roads will intrude on "potential minerals development" in addition to impeding geological surveys and mineral exploration.

Sun 12.11.1980

'Aquifer' Drilling Eyed For MX

By BILL BECKER
SUN Staff Writer

While the MX missile system would have a massive impact on Nevada water supplies, the development of aquifer drilling sites could provide sufficient supplies to affected areas, including Clark County, officials say.

County Commissioner Bob Broadbent said Wednesday that it would be feasible to construct a water pipeline to the proposed Kane Springs military base, about 50 miles north of Las Vegas, while the Air Force drills for future water supplies.

"I wouldn't mind selling Clark County water to the Air Force for the first 20 years (of MX development in Nevada)," he said. "After that, they could supply us with water pumped out from the aquifer."

The carbonate aquifer is a layer of porous rock situated some 7,000-10,000 feet below

the earth's surface which, if drilled, could produce water that would be piped into Las Vegas.

A preliminary draft of the Air Force's environmental impact statement (DEIS) suggests that one way to reduce the impact on water sources in the Coyote Springs Valley would be to have Colorado River water piped there.

Construction activities requiring water would include earthwork, concrete and concrete plants, aggregate plants, dust control, and irrigation for revegetation. The main demands for water during operation of the MX bases would be domestic.

The Las Vegas area currently uses only half of its state allotment of Colorado River water. Doubling of the local population is projected to occur within 25 years.

A Las Vegas Water District analysis made earlier

this year indicated construction costs for a pipeline to Kane Springs would come to about \$62.7 million.

Water researchers in Nevada have not received copies of the huge DEIS. They say it will take weeks before its implications can be analyzed.

The voluminous report says water resources along the proposed missile deployment area in Nevada and Utah would be severely affected by groundwater drilling, resulting in a reduction of present groundwater table levels.

That would pose a hazard to the Moapa Indian Reservation, where the economy derives its income from agricultural activities near the Muddy River Springs.

"Lowering the water table impacts groundwater

availability because pumping costs increase," the report notes. "In other words, an economic burden is conveyed to existing and future... groundwater users, which, in turn, may lead to secondary socio-economic impacts."

In addition to a lowered water table, other adverse effects on the environment would include dried-up wells, poor water quality, and reduced spring flows.

The report says there will be a heavy demand for water for two to five years during construction of the missile system, but the demand will then decrease.

"It's possible," Broadbent said, "that there is enough water in the deep carbonate to take care of millions of people. It may lay beneath the entire Nevada Great

Basin."

Don Paff, Las Vegas Water District general manager, said the Air Force ought to "share responsibility" over water supplies.

"We need some wells to see if it's feasible to drill for water that deep," he said. "That is the least they can do to replace what has to be the immediate economic impact on known water availability."

Each exploratory well would cost about \$1 million.

In addition to importing water to the area, the DEIS suggests that impacts to the groundwater could be minimized by a system of monitoring water levels, storing water supplies, eliminating the irrigation for revegetation of shelter sites and other methods.

Utah governor sees dim future for West

By Ed Vogel
R-J Staff Writer

The West cannot be expected to bring energy independence to the nation at the same time it serves as home to the MX missile system, Utah Gov. Scott Matheson told a Las Vegas audience Friday.

"The situation is as confusing as Saturday night here in Caesars Palace," Matheson told members of the Colorado River Water Users Association.

Even without the MX, one million new residents will flock to the West in the next 10 years as America strives to achieve

energy independence by developing coal fields and oil shale, Matheson said. At the same time, another 250,000 persons may rush to Utah and Nevada to work on the massive \$79 billion MX missile system, he said.

"Both of these developments are coming down on us at the same time, but the federal government is not talking of the impact they both involve," Matheson said.

Unless the federal government does something to reduce the negative effects of such population growth, the MX and en-

ergy development "will bring havoc to our region," the governor said.

The Carter Administration has not come up with "a game plan" to reduce the double impact, Matheson said.

"The Carter program is too costly and will conflict with energy development in the West," he said.

But Matheson held out hope that President-elect Ronald Reagan will decide to put MX missiles in Minuteman III silos instead of under 4,600 shelters in the Utah-Nevada desert.

He said William Van Cleve, the defense coordinator on Reagan's transition team, told him Reagan will make a decision on the future of the MX by the Jan. 20 inauguration.

"But he gave me no glimmer of what Reagan's final decision will be," Matheson said.

If Reagan goes ahead with the MX, then Matheson wants Congress to schedule oversight hearings to determine how the missile system will affect the West. Direct grants should be made to the states to let them build schools, roads and other

public facilities, he said.

Even without the MX, the Western states will have to build 108 new high schools in the next 10 years for the dependents of people working on energy projects, he said.

Back in 1970, only 6 percent of the nation's coal was mined in Western states. By 1990, more than half of the nation's coal will come from the West, Matheson said.

The million-person influx will generate a requirement for 216 million gallons of treated water a day, he added. The MX mis-

sile system needs 120,000 acre feet of water during the 1983-89 construction period. During the system's operation period, the MX will use 15,000 acre feet of water a year.

A just-released preliminary MX impact study indicated that the MX system will lower the water table in Nevada. The study recommends importing Colorado River water to use for the missile system.

When asked if Colorado River water would be given to the MX, Matheson replied: "We haven't got any to give to you."

RS 12.12.1980

Christensen says MX panel overlooks cities

By Dale Pugh
R-J Staff Writer

Las Vegas City Commissioner Paul Christensen on Friday attempted to block passage of a \$1.5 million budget for Nevada's MX Local Oversight Committee, contending the committee is ignoring the need of cities to prepare for the impacts of the massive missile system.

The committee approved the budget, however, with Christensen casting the only dissenting vote.

"As it stands now Nevada's cities just don't have an equitable

voice in planning," Christensen told the oversight committee. "A balance must exist between cities and counties in order to properly plan for MX related impacts."

The five-member county committee lacks a sufficient number of city representatives, he charged. Christensen is the only representative of a city on the Clark County delegation.

The commissioner said he opposed passage of the committee's 1981 budget because it leaves out any planning assistance funds for cities.

"They've got a budget where all the studies are geared to rural areas, counties and negatively impacted areas," he said. "There are some urban studies, but they are being done without urban input except from Clark County."

Christensen maintained Clark County would do a poor job of representing the needs of the city.

"Everybody has the idea the county will take care of the cities within it, but we're in competition with Clark County," he said. "It's like sending the foxes out to gath-

er the eggs in the chicken house."

While some members of the oversight committee told Christensen the meeting was not the place to discuss disagreements with Clark County, he contended it was.

"This committee is the only committee authorized by the state to do these things. There is no other committee," he said. "And the committee does not recognize that the urban areas will be impacted."

After the meeting Christensen said cities

within the state might form their own oversight committee. "We're being left out here," he said.

The commissioner also maintained the committee's studies should not be limited to the negative impacts of the MX missile project.

"The city of Las Vegas intends to identify the positive economic benefits to be gained from MX and to provide planning assistance for other cities in Nevada," he said. "MX will create thousands of jobs and can diversify our economy. Why should we

spend \$1.5 million to only determine the negative impacts of the system?"

Following the meeting, Clark County Commissioner Bob Broadbent denied either Clark County or the committee are trying to overlook cities.

"The purpose of the money for the first year is for communities that don't have the capabili-

ties to prepare for the project," Broadbent said. "We've got to get

the small counties up to speed with the city and Clark County."

RS
12.13.1980

Governor foresees MX 'crisis'

By Jeanne M. Hall
R-J Staff Writer

The federal government could create a "crisis" if it tried to develop both the MX missile system and the energy reserves of western states, Gov. Robert List told a Las Vegas audience Friday.

"I'd say we'd be in a manpower and materials crisis," the Nevada governor said.

In his speech to the Colorado River Water Users Association, List echoed comments made earlier to the group by Utah Gov. Scott Matheson.

"Both of these developments are coming down on us at the same time, but the federal government is not talking of the impact they both involve," Matheson told the water group.

Unless the federal government realizes the projects' demands on materials and water, and the impact that both projects will have in spurring population growth, they "will bring havoc to our region," Matheson said.

"The collective cumulative



GOV. LIST
...in LV talk

impact is almost unfathomable," List said.

Both governors foresaw problems with the estimated one million-person population increase in the West because of

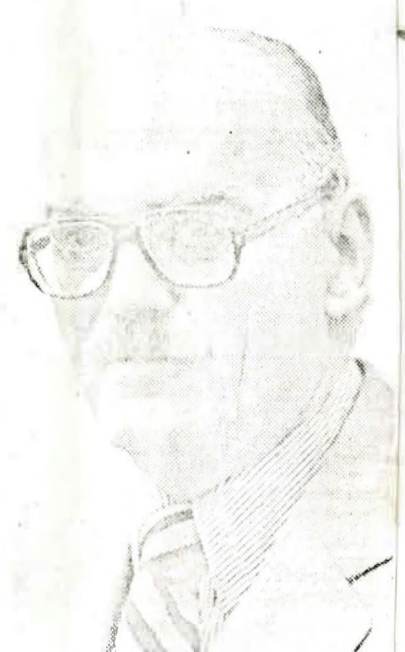
the government's push to develop energy resources such as coal fields and shale oil in the region. The MX could add another 250,000 residents to Nevada and Utah.

Following Matheson's speech, List met with the Utah governor to discuss the MX project as part of an ongoing bi-state dialogue. The federal government has proposed building the \$79 million missile system in the barren valleys of Eastern Nevada and Western Utah.

The conflict that will be caused in the development of both the West's energy reserves and the massive missile project will be addressed during Senate oversight hearings beginning in January, List said.

These oversight hearings, List said, will discuss "Material, manpower and capital. And the drain that will be placed on these three in Nevada and Utah."

The governors also expressed hope that the administration of newly elected President Ronald Reagan will sharply examine



GOV. MATHESON
...predicts havoc

the MX missile and decide whether it is essential to this country's defense.

See Crisis,
Page 2A

Crisis

from Page 1A

"They are evaluating all of the options for the defense of this country including deploying the MX missile in modes and areas outside our states," List said. These different options include installing the MX in existing Minuteman silos or placing them on submarines, Matheson said.

List said his key concern was that the U.S. Air Force would "fast track" the MX missile system, shoving it down Nevada's and Utah's throats.

"The Air Force could put this on a fast track system and would override the environmental considerations in federal law and override the existing legal

procedures for withdrawal of federal lands," List said.

"This is a potentially disastrous way to go," he added.

List and Matheson also expressed concern whether the Air Force's 90-day comment period on the draft Environmental Impact Statement would be adequate.

RT
12.13.1980

BLM officials seek changes in MX impact report

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Federal land management officials are asking for changes in a report being prepared by the Air Force on the

impact of the proposed MX missile system on the environment in the Great Basin area of Utah and Nevada, a newspaper reported Sat-

urday.

Dave Williams, chief of the Office of Special Projects in the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, said a document produced recently by his agency is especially critical of the Air Force's environmental impact statement, an estimate of the missile's

impact on grazing, mining and energy projects in the Great Basin.

Williams refused to say whether the 135-page classified document by his office questions the adequacy of the Air Force's draft environmental impact statement. But he said it does recommend

changes in the statement, which must be accepted before construction can begin.

"It has to be really well done, not only to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act but to fulfill the requirements of the land withdrawal process," Williams said.

An agency or individual could challenge the environmental statement in court.

Environmental draft not final word on MX

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Air Force says a final draft Environmental Impact Statement on the MX missile system to be released next week will not be the final word on environmental concerns raised by the massive project.

Air Force Maj. Bob McMains, liaison officer in Utah for MX, said the draft statement, as well as a preliminary draft statement circulated this week, are only part of a long decision-making process on the MX.

The preliminary draft EIS said the MX system would cause massive social, environmental and economic impact in the sparsely populated Utah and Nevada valleys where its construction is planned.

Among other things,

the nine-volume, 1,500-page draft report circulated last week said the missile system could bring 28,000 workers to the desert valleys, and peak earnings of \$1.8 billion could trigger inflation and boom growth in the area.

McMains said the final draft will be basically the same document, with some organizational changes.

The final draft will be released to federal, state and local agencies for a 90-day comment period. Then it will be rewritten into a final impact statement, including the public comments.

The final impact statement then must be reviewed for 30 days before decisions can be based on it.

RJ 12-14-80

Experts tout submarine-based MX system

RENO (AP) — A submarine-based MX missile system would be far superior to the proposed land-based system and could save the United States \$10 billion, two defense scholars reportedly told the

Reagan transition team Tuesday.

According to the Reno Evening Gazette, professors Sidney Drell of Stanford and Richard Garwin of Harvard told Reagan defense advisor William

Van Cleave that a submarine system would be quicker, easier to operate, less expensive and less harmful to the environment than the proposed land-based missile system.

They proposed substituting

land-based missile trucks with 55 non-nuclear, diesel-powered subs of 1,400 to 1,800 tons each, the newspaper said.

Each submarine would have a 20-member crew and would carry two MX missiles in cap-

sules outside the main hull. They would cruise at low speeds within 600 miles of the U.S.

Spokesmen for the Air Force and the Department of De-

fense criticized the professors' plan, saying it greatly underestimates costs. They said a submarine MX system would weaken the land leg of the traditional air-sea-land defense triad.

RJ 12.17.1980

Air Force: MX fears 'exaggerated'

By Jeanne M. Hall
and John Diaz
R-J Staff Writers

A top Air Force official said Thursday the fears of Nevada and Utah residents about the MX missile system are "greatly exaggerated."

In releasing the \$24 million environmental impact statement on MX, Air Force Undersecretary Antonia Chayes told reporters in Washington, D.C., the impact of the system will be "not negligible, but certainly manageable."

"While the impacts may appear severe when viewed from

the perspective of a little developed area of the country, from a national perspective — and MX is a national program — the impacts are not that large," Chayes said at a Pentagon briefing.

Officials conducting briefings at Air Force bases in Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas said the long-delayed draft environmental impact statement shows the Nevada-Utah Great Basin to be the best region for the 4,600-shelter, 200-missile system.

At a briefing at Nellis Air Force Base, Maj. Mike Hen-

shaw said the impact statement was an "honest assessment of the impacts the MX will cause on the state."

Henshaw, an officer in the development office of the Pentagon, stressed that the statement was only a draft and was "accurate as to the data we have at this time."

He said further analysis of new data could cause changes in the Air Force's estimate of the number of construction workers required to build the system. Gov. Robert List on Wednesday sharply criticized the Air Force for revising estimates of the

number of people needed to construct and operate the system. Henshaw, however, refused to attack List's statement. The draft impact statement estimated the MX would bring 85,000 workers into the region during peak years, eventually tapering off to 31,000. Such an increase would represent a growth rate in Nevada of 4.2 percent, in contrast to an expected 3.2 percent rate without MX.

To cope with the sharp population increase, the report projects that 663,000 housing units will be needed by 1994. This

represents a 35 percent increase over 1982. Forty percent of these new units would need to be built in Nevada, primarily in Clark County. The remaining units would be constructed primarily in Salt Lake and Utah counties in Utah.

The draft environmental impact statement contains nine volumes — 2,000 pages — of information. There are also several thousand pages of backup data, Henshaw said.

The statement reports that the MX system could threaten the region's sparse water supply.

Other potential environmental damage raised in the draft statement include loss of grazeland, a threat to wildlife, reduced access to energy resources and a strain on community services caused by the influx of MX workers.

Two copies of the statement will be available for examination at the public affairs office at Nellis Air Force base and two additional copies will be available for the press only at the Flamingo Library, Henshaw said.

See MX,
Page 2A

List criticizes MX planners

By Richard Cornett
R-J Staff Writer

Gov. Robert List blasted Air Force officials on Wednesday for changing their projection of the number of people needed to construct and operate the MX missile project.

The governor claimed the revised projections, contained in the draft environmental impact statement released Thursday, will force state planners to revise their studies of the system — and they may not have the time to do so during the 90-day response period they have been given by the government.

"Virtually every projection and assessment contained in the impact statement is based on work force estimates, and now the Air Force is telling us that the projections are wrong," List said in a news statement after discussing the report Wednesday with an Air Force official.

"There is no guarantee that

the revised figures are any more correct than the original projections," the governor said.

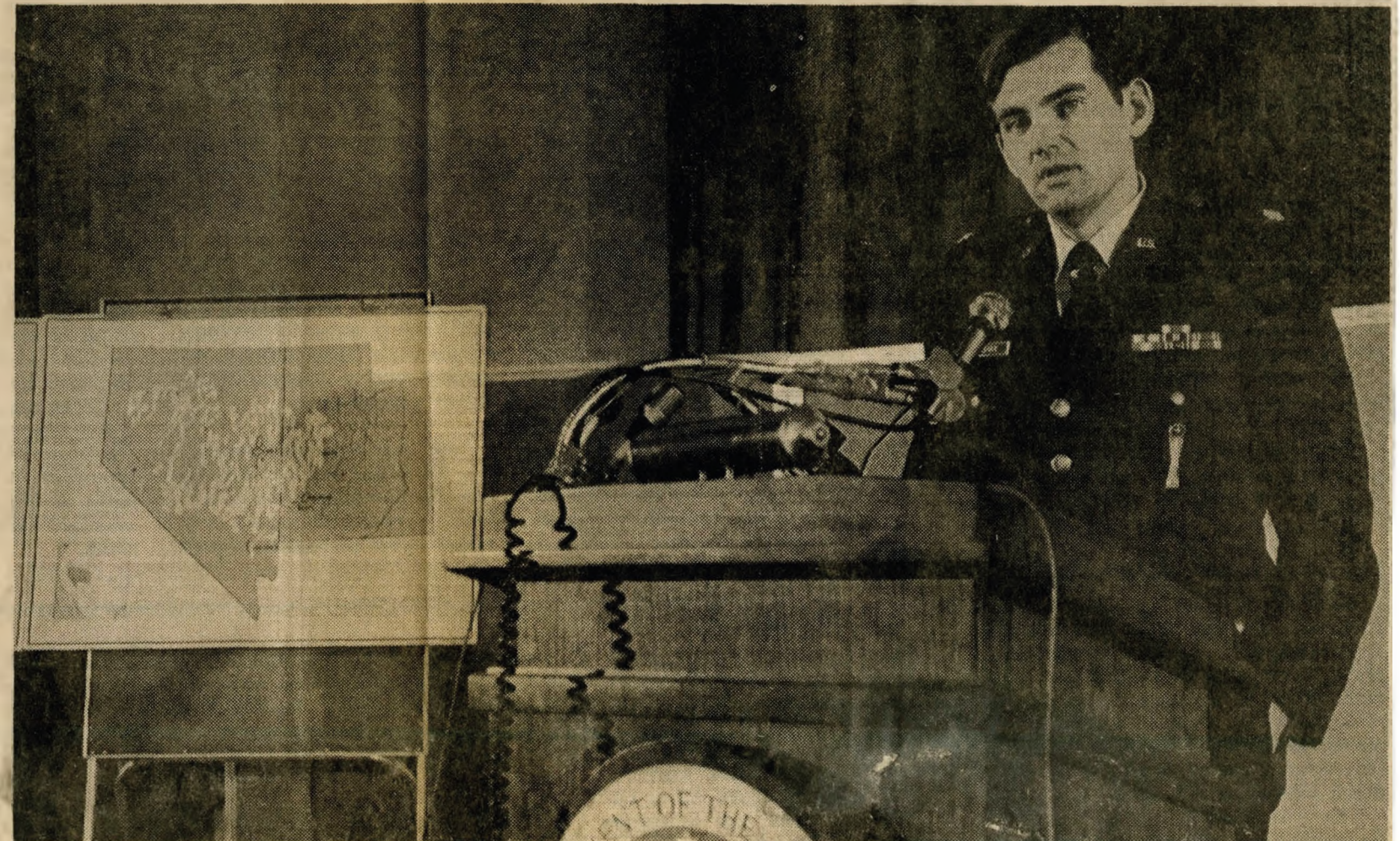
"It seems that the very cornerstone upon which the impact statement was based has a very serious crack running right through the middle of it," he said.

Original estimates by the Air Force set the peak construction work force at 16,000 workers during the mid-1980s. The draft statement sets the number of needed workers at more than 85,000, tapering off to 31,000 once construction is completed.

MX critics claim the work force could grow to more than 100,000 people during peak construction.

List met for an hour Wednesday with Air Force Maj. Mike Henshaw to discuss the study. Afterward, he said his initial reaction to the draft was "deep concern" and "apprehension."

See List
Page 2A



MX BRIEFING - U.S. Air Force Maj. Mike Henshaw of the Pentagon Development Office explains the draft environ-

mental impact statement on the MX missile system during a Thursday morning briefing at Nellis Air Force Base.

R-J photo by Gary Thompson

From Page 1A

Later this month 10,000 more copies of the statement will be printed, Henshaw said. The 90-day public comment period on the draft environmental statement begins Jan. 2. The Air Force plans to conduct extensive public hearings towards the end of the comment period.

The proposed MX missile system consists of 200 missiles which would be shuttled between 4,600 shelters. The Air Force contends this mobility is necessary to guarantee the survival of the system against a first-strike attack from the Soviet Union. Military analysts predict the Soviet Union will have a capability to knock out the country's current land-based ICBMs by 1983. Initial deployment of the MX system is projected for 1986.

The environmental impact statement also addresses the impact of placing the system in New Mexico and Texas, and the impact of a split-basing mode that would place half the shelters in Nevada and Utah and the other half in Texas and New Mexico.

In addition, Air Force officials insisted the investigation studied the possibility of beefing up the present ICBM sys-

tem or placing a version of the MX missile on submarines.

Representatives from Henshaw, Durham & Richards Sciences Division, the California company which prepared the statement, were also at the Nellis Air Force base briefing.

Although Chayes acknowledged that the draft statement warns of a threat to the region's sparse water supply, she said measures could be taken to ensure the impact is not serious.

During the peak construction year of 1986, there would be a demand for 30,000 acre-feet of water, Henshaw said. The average annual demand for water when the system is in operation will be 13,000 acre-feet.

Chayes said several "real possibilities for positive economic growth" would emerge in Nevada and Utah as a result of the MX, such as increased revenue, employment opportunities, expanded road systems and water resource development.

"We have increased support (for the MX) from members of the business community," Chayes said. "Ranchers and miners have expressed concern

that their way of life and their freedom would be somewhat limited.

"I think as we have explained exactly what the impacts are — and we now have the details available — a great deal of that kind of opposition will change."

The draft impact statement predicted that peak MX-related earnings for Nevada-Utah would be \$1.2 billion in 1986, leveling off and declining to \$250 million by 1983.

The draft impact statement stated that the environmental and social impacts would be more severe if the 190,000-pound, 6,000-mile range rockets were deployed in West Texas-New Mexico.

Chayes said the final impact statement is scheduled for release next summer. If the Air Force gets the final go-ahead from Congress in 1981 for the MX, she said the first 10 missiles, each with 10 warheads, could be ready by mid-1986. She said the whole system could be deployed by 1989.

Countering criticism of the 1,900-page report, Chayes said, "In terms of the integrity of this document, it has been made exactly as the National Environmental Policy Act says it should work."



ANTONIA CHAYES
"...not that large"



MAJ. MIKE HENSHAW
"...MX needed"



STEPHEN BERWICK
"...impacted"



DAVID VOMACKA
"...manageable"

List

85 12 18 1980

From Page 1A

He said another main concern was over the "whirlpool" effect the MX will have in draining workers and resources from other businesses and industries in the area.

"I am concerned over the absence of adequate public services in the deployment area and the lack of available water," he said.

The MX is expected to consume 112 billion

gallons of water over the next 20 years. The draft environmental impact statement warns such a drain could lower the region's water table.

List said he will turn over the impact state-

ment to the state's MX project field office. The report then will be broken down by members of the 30 select committees he has formed to study the statement.

The governor said he

was concerned about the short amount of time state officials have to review the draft. The state has 90 days beginning Jan. 2 to comment on the draft impact state-

ment. "Ninety days is such a terribly short time," he said. "It would be even worse if we had to lose some of it waiting for the technical and support material."

Laxalt: MX system still no sure thing

Associated Press

Sen. Paul Laxalt says that in spite of the massive and expensive environmental impact statement released Thursday on the MX, the sprawling missile system is not a sure thing.

Laxalt, one of President-elect Ronald Reagan's closest advisers, said in Washington, D.C. that there is a "50-50" chance the incoming administration will choose to upgrade the Minuteman missile fleet

rather than build a new defense system in Nevada and Utah.

He said transition officials told him last week they are exploring the possibility of upgrading the Minuteman so it

could survive a Soviet attack.

List Puts Down MX Report

By BILL BECKER
SUN Staff Writer

New work force projections for the estimated 8-year-long construction period of the proposed MX missile system make the Air Force's environmental impact statement "obsolete," Gov. Robert List told the SUN Wednesday night.

"The report is based on a very false premise," said List, referring to estimates applied throughout the 1,900-page document.

A table shows the number of workers the Air Force originally projected as needed between 1982 and 1989. The table also shows a doubling and tripling of those estimates.

The higher estimates, arrived at only a month ago, were not applied to environmental impacts analyzed in the huge report, although they reflect a higher degree of impact.

"The Air Force admitted that the

Governor Says Worker Projections Misleading On Environmental Impact

entire report was based on erroneous numbers," List said.

Brig. Gen. James P. McCarthy, responding to List's remarks, said the Air Force was not required to make public the larger estimates, which were derived from a "Task Force" consensus of

cause we wanted to be up front about the differences," McCarthy said.

List said he told McCarthy about four weeks ago that he would "have some problems" if the report was released without taking the higher work force estimates into account.

Release of the report, List said, "puts us in a difficult position in preparing our response."

"I do not want to appear to contradict the governor," McCarthy told the SUN, "but I think he misunderstood where I'm coming from."

List was briefed Wednesday by Air Force officials on the statement which is due to be released Thursday.

"My initial reaction is one of deep concern and apprehension," said List.

He said Air Force officials handed him a single sheet of paper which he said included drastic revision of the projections of the work force which was contained in the overall report.

He said he was turning over the report to 30 select committees that will analyze it. He also said he did not think the 90 days given the state was adequate.

Related Stories Pages 3, 12

Air Force engineers, contract consultants, and the Corps of Engineers.

"We didn't have to acknowledge that the task force estimates exist," McCarthy said. "We may come up with additional figures further along in the (MX) program."

"We revealed those estimates be-

The governor said he would not want to start the clock on the required 90-day public comment period unless the larger estimates were reflected throughout the study.

"My pitch to McCarthy was — you guys better get together on your premise," List said.

SUN 12-18-80

Air Force To Try Softening MX Impact

By BILL BECKER
SUN Staff Writer

The final draft of an environmental impact statement on the MX missile project proposed for Nevada and Utah, remains basically the same, an Air Force spokesman said Wednesday.

The Air Force is scheduled to release the final draft Thursday morning. Last week, the SUN revealed portions of a preliminary version, focusing on possible effects on ground water, mining claims, vegetation and public safety.

The impact statement was prepared for the purpose of selecting a base site for the enormous project. "Now, we can put the consequences of MX into perspective," the spokesman said, adding that the job is to find acceptable ways to ease environmental problems.

A public comment period will begin in early January, continuing until April. A series of local meetings in Nevada are expected to begin in March.

Simultaneous news conferences were scheduled Thursday morning at Nellis

AFB; Hill AFB, Utah; Bergstrom AFB, Texas; and Kirtland AFB, N. Mex.

Air Force officials emphasized that the statement is the first of a two-tiered analysis of proposed MX sites. The second "tier" will be a technical report examining specific site and shelter locations.

The MX system, as it has been proposed, will utilize 200 horizontal land-based intercontinental ballistic mis-

siles which can be concealed within 4,600 shelters. The main operating base in Nevada has been proposed for the Coyote Springs Valley, about 50 miles north of Las Vegas.

According to the statement, environmental affects during and after construction of the system will be significant, predominantly where air quality and ground water availability are concerned.

Additionally, mining and farming activities may be hampered.

The 1,903-page report, separated into nine volumes, also analyzes impacts of an alternative "split-basing" deployment.

Under the alternative, the 200 missiles would occupy territory in New Mexico and Texas, as well as in Nevada and Utah. MX is expected to spread over about 8,500 square miles of land.

The report points out other areas of impact, including a hastened population increase in the adjoining states that would require new energy resources, public financing, and lifestyle changes.

SUN 12-18-80

Air Force's MX Impact Draft Rapped

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rep. James Santini, D-Nev., said Wednesday the Air Force draft environmental impact statement on the MX missile system is "woefully deficient" and "inadequate," and much more information is needed.

"If private industry had prepared a document as inadequate as this, it would be soundly rejected," he said. "Rather than providing concrete solutions to very critical MX impacts, we essentially get the same old euphemisms suggesting there is no problem too large for the Air Force to solve."

"The statement fleetingly casts aside some real problems and minimizes many others," he said, adding there must be more attention to such things as energy requirements and their effect on tourism, water overdrafts, housing shortages, degeneration of community services, and all of the problems associated with a boom-bust economy.

He said one requirement of an environmental impact statement is to suggest steps to reduce the impact in the communities where the missile is to be placed. He said the Air Force comes up "woefully deficient" in this area.

Santini said he will seek a congressional investigation of the environmental draft, and independent reviews by the General Accounting Office and the Congressional Research Service.

"The Air Force calls for impact assistance and planning as the universal solutions to MX impacts, but the specifics on how much aid and from what source are not covered."

He said it failed to address alternatives for basing the missiles.

"I don't think we should be wed to the dragstrip basing, nor do I think we should rule out the concept of basing some of the missiles in other states."

He said the draft statement is deficient regarding the energy needs of the project.

"It predicts a substantial demand for gasoline, which it admits will have a severe effect on our leading industry, tourism," he said. "The supposed remedy for this shortage is the Department of Energy's allocation system, which failed so miserably during 1979 that many people concluded it made the gas crisis worse. The draft statement does not even consider the fact the allocation system will expire in the fall of 1981 and the

president-elect has no plans to revive it."

"Second, the statement assumes no need for further power generation capacity partly because of the planned Allen-Warner Valley energy project, which itself is having difficulty getting approval."

"Third, in its most ludicrous analysis, the Department of Defense claims there may be a net savings of energy nationally because people working on the project will move from cold climates to our warm one."

He said MX water demands are "enormous - 112 billion gallons projected over the course of its 20-year lifetime." He said MX demands in some of the valleys will result in an annual overdraft of five or six feet.

"Since Nevada does not generally permit such groundwater depletion, the implications are serious," he said.

He said the draft statement treatment of MX impact on mineral exploration and development is "so superficial as to be ludicrous."

"The geologic setting that provides the context of the state's mineral deposits is simply not discussed."

He said that, after the peak boom, MX will provide Nevada and Utah with about 8,000 permanent civilian jobs at the most.

"The statement says MX induced employment will produce a bubble in regional employment but will not significantly affect the long-term employment picture of the region. In peak construction years, unemployment might decline 1 to 2 percent, but unemployment rates will rise in the long run. At the individual county level, again the boom-bust employment patterns are significant even in Clark County. Probable impacts are labor shortages, worker immigration, wage escalation, inflated prices and land values."

He also said there are questions of housing supply, and cost of services such as schools and teachers, health personnel, etc., for the project workers.

"Mitigation measures are either exceedingly nonspecific or nonexistent," Santini said. "On this basis alone, this environmental statement should be questioned because if we don't know how impacts are lessened, we really don't know what the net impact of MX will be."

SUN 12-18-80



IMPACT POINT — Air Force Undersecretary Antonia Handler Chayes said the impact of deploying 200 intercontinental nuclear missiles at random in 4,600 shelters in the southwest — the controversial MX Mobile System — is "thoroughly manageable."

UPIphoto

SUN 12-19-80

Considered Sites For MX Missile Shelters



MX Impact Statement Due For Revisions, Feds Say

By GARY GERARD
and ROBERT G. FISHER
SUN Staff Writers

MX missile system planners Thursday stressed that the government's draft environmental impact statement was only a draft and that it would be revised during preparation of the final statement.

Attending the press conference at Nellis AFB were Air Force Majors Mike Henshaw and Ron Huff, MX development engineer

with the Pentagon's MX office and MX liaison officer respectively; Dick Morrison, Bureau of Land Management coordinator for MX matters; and Dr. Stephen Berwick, chief scientist with Henningson, Durham and Richardson and Dr. David H. Vomacka, HDR vice president. HDR, a scientific research firm, prepared the DEIS for the Air Force.

(Please See IMPACT, Page 2)

Impact Draft Due Editing

(Continued From Page 1)

Henshaw, principal spokesman at the meeting, noted that the EIS cost \$17 million to complete and is the most extensive EIS ever published. "It is the largest effort ever undertaken to analyze the environmental impact of a federal defense project," he said.

There will be a 90-day review of the document beginning in January and the public will have an opportunity to review the document during that time. Two copies will be available at the Nellis AFB Public Affairs Office and two others will be placed with the Clark County Library's Flamingo branch.

Public hearings will be held toward the end of the 90-day review period, it was noted. At those meetings, the Air Force will solicit comments from people who have read the EIS.

"We believe the document is an honest assessment of the impact the MX will have on the state," Henshaw said, reminding those attending the meeting that the DEIS is, after all, only a draft -- based on information

available up to the time it was prepared.

Since its preparation, he said, additional information has surfaced. The ultimate decision-maker — the President — will base his decision on the final environmental impact statement.

Thus, the draft, it was stressed, is merely a "snapshot in time."

According to Henshaw, in the EIS the Air Force is asking the decision-maker to:

- Decide on the deployment area, and
- Decide on the operating base locations.

The geotechnically and operationally suitable places for the operating bases are to be in either Nevada/Utah and/or Texas/New Mexico. Nevada and Utah constitute the preferred area with a main operating base in Coyote Springs, some 50 miles north of Las Vegas, and a second base at Milford, Utah. Alternatives include Beryl, Utah and Ely, Nevada, as well as locations in Texas and New Mexico.

Henshaw, referring to the DEIS, said that "This is a draft, based on the best avail-

able data." As the data is updated, so will sections of the draft. When the FEIS comes out, many of the existing kinks will, hopefully, have been ironed out, he added.

New data "could have a significant impact on the final EIS," he explained. "There could be further refinements in the system. As better data is acquired, we'll analyze it and make it available to the public."

In reference to Nevada Senator James Santini's five-page comment on the DEIS made available Wednesday, Henshaw said: "I will not take on Congressman Santini before you or anyone else. The Air Force will sit down in an attempt to reconcile various differences with him."

Asked if President-elect Ronald Reagan would be making a mistake if he decided to shelve the MX, Henshaw replied tersely: "Yes."

The Air Force official explained that the proposed MX location is in Nevada and Utah because there is no problem acquiring land. Most of it is already under federal

control. In Texas and New Mexico, the AF would have a tougher time with acquisition, he said.

"We have had good discussions with the transition team of the Reagan administration," Henshaw said. "We believe the multiple protective-shelter mode is viable and that we can present a good case. We don't intend on entering into a contest with the Reagan administration. We plan on working hand-in-glove with them."

Funds spent so far on the MX system amounts to \$2 billion. The acquisition cost of the MX system, in FY 1980 dollars, is \$33.8 billion. The GAO, taking inflation as well as operation and maintenance costs into account, has determined that it will cost \$55 billion.

"The federal government is not going to be roughshod by saying that we're going to deploy the MX no matter what. I have friends who were involved with the B-1 who'll tell you that nothing is guaranteed," said Henshaw.

Nevada's growth during the 1970s was also discussed by Henshaw.

Study confident about MX water

By Jeanne M. Hall
R-J Staff Writer

Although Nevada and Utah are among the driest states in the country, the Air Force's draft environmental impact statement on the MX missile system predicts that water deep underground can provide the vast amount of the resource needed to build and operate the \$79 million system.

The impact statement projects that groundwater levels may be sharply decreased during periods of peak construction, but in the long run the drain on the underground reserves will not be substantial.

"Although some long-term impacts may occur due to the short-term MX withdrawal (of

water for construction), the analysis of gross groundwater resource characteristics indicates that the potential for widespread long-term impacts on groundwater availability is not great," the report said.

The Air Force projects that 30,000 acre-feet of water will be needed in the peak construction year of 1973. The military projects that 12,000 acre-feet of water will be used annually to operate and maintain the two MX bases, at Coyote Springs and Milford, Utah. An acre-foot of water is the amount of water it takes to cover one acre of land to the depth of one foot.

According to the Air Force, See Water, Page 4A

Water

From Page 1A

the water is there.

The draft impact statement states that the drain on the ground water represents "less than one percent of the estimated recoverable water in storage in the upper 100 feet" of the water table.

The study also projects that water levels will begin recovering after peak construction has passed.

Nevada has an average annual rainfall of 8.47 inches, while Utah has an average annual rainfall of 15.17 inches.

Nevada water engineer Bill Neuman said he has not seen the impact statement and cannot comment on the report's conclusion that water if available.

Ken Olson, the MX coordinator for Utah, said the impact statement lacks the technical backup necessary to determine if the conclusions about water availability are correct.

"We need technical logs, drilling records," Olson said. "We're very mad that we don't have the technical backup."

Olson said about 30 support documents have not been issued. He contended that the 90-day comment period, which is scheduled to begin Jan. 2, should be postponed until both states have access to all the data.

The question of adequate groundwater is especially crucial for the proposed operations base in Milford, Utah.

According the impact statement, all the groundwater near Milford has been claimed and the Utah water engineer has refused to issue any further water rights.

"The situation in Utah is that

there is no water availability," Olson said.

According to the impact statement, the Air Force must buy up current water rights in order to place an operations base in Milford, a move which would result in the loss of 2,000 acres of irrigated farmland.

The report also stresses that drilling must be carefully monitored in Coyote Springs so that the flow of water to Muddy River Springs is not drastically reduced.

The Muddy River Springs form the base of the agricultural economy of Alamo and the Moapa Valley, which includes the Moapa Indian Reservation.

The impact statement, prepared by private contract Henningson, Durham & Richards (HDR) of Santa Barbara, Calif., proposes five solutions to ease the drain on underground water.

They are:

— Importing Colorado River water to Coyote Springs and bringing in outside water for Milford.

— Incorporating water-saving designs in building and operating the base.

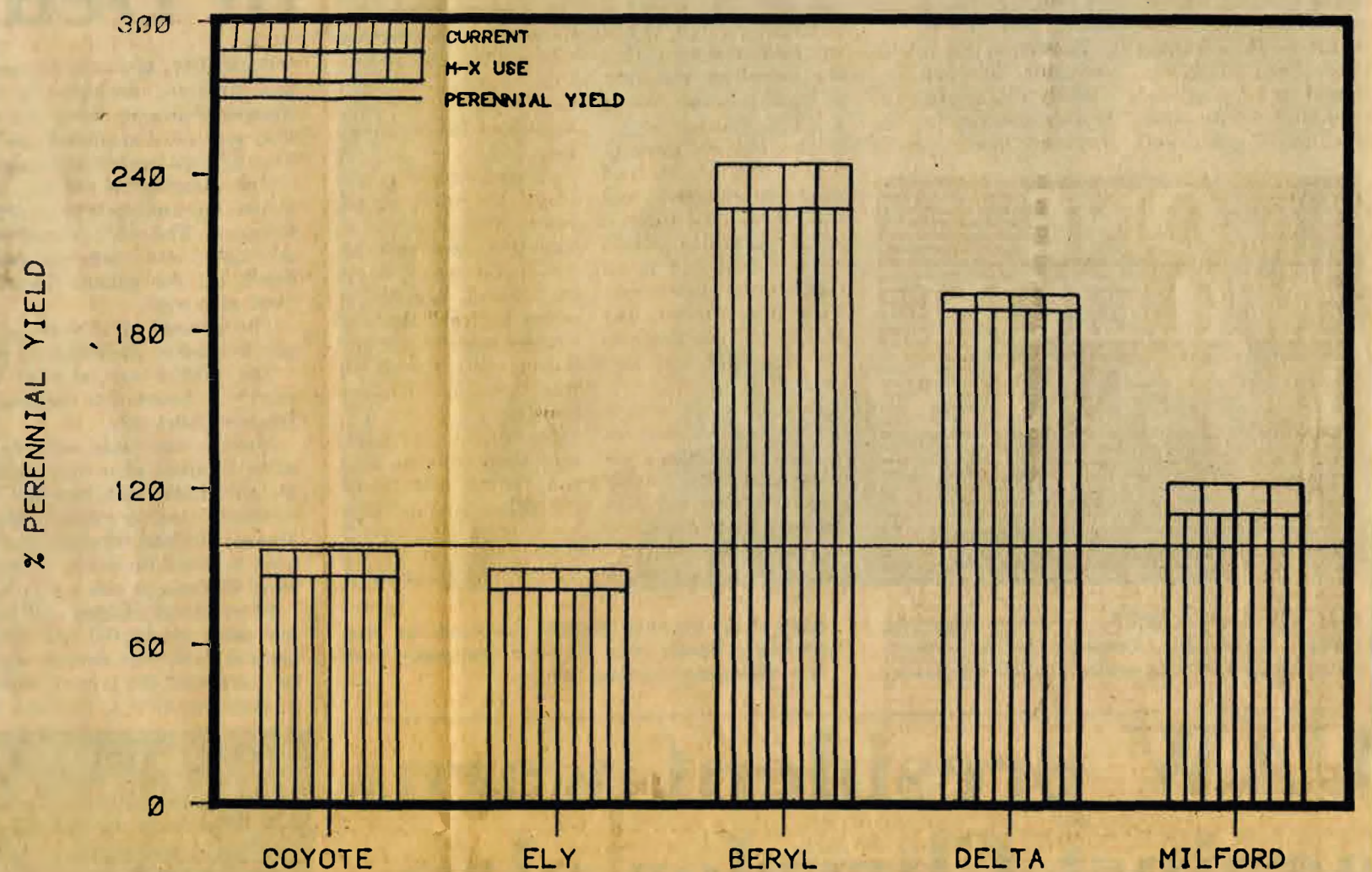
— Utilizing infiltration bases to return treated wastewater to groundwater reservoirs.

— Using treated wastewater for irrigation and other nonpotable uses.

— Locating and managing well fields to avoid directly impacting the springs and existing wells.

These mitigations were criticized by Olson as not being specific.

"My characterization of the mitigation measures is that they consider everything and promise nothing," he said.



WATER USAGE - This chart, contained in the draft environmental impact statement on the MX missile system, indicates that the proposed Utah base sites of Beryl, Delta and Milford, use more groundwater than is replaced on an annual basis. The line across the graph indicates the level of water that is replenished each year through natural processes. According to the chart, the Utah towns will dip even

further into water reserves when the drain from building and operating the MX is considered. Even though Milford already uses more ground water annually than is replaced, the Air Force has selected it and Coyote Springs as preferred operations bases for the \$79 million weapons system.

Air Force chart

Reagan Petitioned

Diverse Elements Oppose MX System

By GARY C. GERARD
SUN Staff Writer

A number of special interest groups, including the National Audubon Society and the National Cattlemen's Association, have pooled their resources in an attempt to convince President-elect Ronald Reagan to shelve the proposed MX defense project before it "permanently alters the human and natural environment" of Nevada and Utah.

The concerted lobbying effort by the various environmental, disarmament and taxpayer groups is aimed at pointing out the "strategic drawbacks" of the \$33.8 billion MX program.

The groups are outlining what they feel are adverse effects such development will have on human and natural resources and highlighting the "inadequacy" of the re-

cently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Rupert Cutler of the National Audubon Society said "existing communities in Nevada and Utah cannot possibly withstand for long the cumulative impacts."

The Air Force, which has its eyes on building the main MX operating base in Coyote Springs, plans to construct 4,600 hardened shelters, several area support centers and a network of roads.

Cutler, as well as ranking members of the Wilderness Society, the Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club, have on separate occasions expressed serious concern about the environmental damage MX would inflict in a "fragile area" of the western United States.

The National Cattlemen's Association, joined by the

Public Lands Council and the National Wool Growers Association, has issued a statement that "the project would virtually destroy the ranching and farming industries in the Great Basin by depleting scarce water supplies and disrupting the present socio-economic fabric in the area."

Ronald Michieli of the cattle industry lobby said the DEIS grossly underestimated the economic disruption and loss of grazing resources the MX would cause. "As we have previously testified in congressional hearings, we firmly believe there are better alternatives."

The national livestock groups, in a joint press conference in Washington, also questioned the need for MX in light of the "apparent rejection of SALT II."

David Cortright, ex-

ecutive director of a Washington-based public interest group called Sane, based his criticism of MX on the same pretext.

"Building the MX would be a strategic disaster," said Cortright, a critic of SALT I. "The 2,000 highly-accurate MX warheads represent a very real threat to the Soviet Union — a threat that will be answered by their building

many new missiles and warheads or adopting a dangerous launch-on-warning posture.

"Instead of provoking a new round of the nuclear arms race and increasing the likelihood of nuclear war," he said, "the Reagan administration should adhere to the limits of SALT II and begin negotiations for deep, equitable cuts in SALT III.

Arms reduction is our only realistic path to security in the nuclear age."

On Sept. 22, during a televised debate with independent presidential candidate John Anderson, the former California governor referred to MX as "that fantastic plan of the (Carter) administration to take thousands and thousands of square miles out in the Western states."

SUN 12-23-80

Officials seek more time for MX review

RENO (AP) — The Air Force says it may grant officials in Nevada and Utah the extra time they've requested to review the 1,800-page environmental assessment of the MX missile project.

"We haven't said no and we haven't said yes," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Terrill on Monday. "We're taking a look now."

The governors of both states have said they need more time than the military is allotting to prepare comments on the MX draft environ-

mental impact statement, which was released last week.

They've asked the Air Force to push back the Jan. 2 start of an official 90-day public comment period on the report.

Terrill said the military won't delay the start of the comment period, but it may extend its length.

RJ 12-23-80